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Kilili wins $4.5M for NMI projects. PAGE 6

Hafa Adai!

$1

Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

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NMC re-accredited for 8 years

NMC

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres, fourth from left, and Northern Marianas College president Galvin Deleon Guerrero, EdD, third from left, are joined by Board of Regents chair Charles Cepeda and other regents and college officials during yesterday's announcement of the college re-affirmation of its accreditation with the Western Association for Schools and Colleges-Senior College and University Commission.

By IVA MAURIN
CORRESPONDENT

The Northern Marianas College had its accreditation by the Western Association of Schools and Colleges Senior College and University Commission reaffirmed yesterday for eight years—the longest accreditation term yet in the college's history.

The milestone came with a barrage of recognitions, with the commission praising the college for its timely, comprehensive, and effective

See NMC on Page 4

Air Busan flights until end of March

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Air Busan remains deeply interested in maintaining its Busan-Saipan route and has, in fact, added seven more flights that will run until the end of March.

According to Marianas Visitors Authority acting managing director Judy Torres, Air Busan has confirmed an additional seven flights from Busan to

See BUSAN on Page 4

Senate committee on impeachment created

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Hofschneider

King-Nabors

Senate President Jude U. Hofschneider (R-Tinian) formed yesterday a special committee that will look into House Resolution 22-14, which impeached Gov. Ralph DLG Torres for alleged commission of felonies, corruption, and neglect of duty.

See SENATE on Page 4

Senate OKs resolution for gov't retirees' $1K bonuses

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

After listening to the explanations of Finance Secretary David DLG Atalig and Senate legal counsel Antonette Villagomez, and the concerns raised by Tinian and Aguiguan Mayor Edwin Aldan, the full

See BONUSES on Page 4

AT A GLANCE

As of 5:49pm, March 10, 2022

VACCINATIONS IN THE CNMI

Eligible Population Additional Dose Vaccinated: 57.6%

Days since last community transmission 2

Pfizer/BioNTech	
Initiated:	37,994
Fully Vaccinated:	37,181
Moderna	
Initiated:	5,343
Fully Vaccinated:	5,205
Janssen	
Fully vaccinated:	1,148
Additional Dose:	21,478

GUAM	OLD	NEW	TOTAL
Positive	46,000	123	46,123
Recovered	44,043	139	44,182
Active	1,481	123	1,604
Deaths	335	2	337

SAIPAN	OLD	NEW	TOTAL
Positive	10,229	55	10,284
Recovered	9,829	134	9,963
Active	236	55	291
Deaths	30	0	30

Source: Joint Information Center - Guam, Commonwealth Healthcare Corp., https://www.vaccinatecnmi.com/vax-dashboard/

COMMUNITY VULNERABILITY

LEGEND:
- **Red:** Least safe
- Orange
- Yellow
- Blue
- **Green:** Safest

Source: Office of the Governor

INSIDE

ASIA
Yoon Suk Yeol, a conservative former top prosecutor, was elected South Korea's president.

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WORLD
Two weeks into its war in Ukraine, Russia has achieved less and struggled more than anticipated.

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LIFE & STYLE
The dancers are torn between body and mind—physically on stage in Paris but in spirit back home in

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Local

RNV issues report on worksite death

The man who died at a construction site in Chalan Kanoa was not directly employed by RNV Construction but was employed by a subcontractor of RNV and was working on a CW-1 visa receipt.

According to an official statement from RNV that was issued Wednesday, Merlito Villegas, the man who died at one of the construction company's project sites in Chalan Kanoa, was not directly employed by RNV. Instead, he was employed through TFC Construction, an RNV subcontractor.

RNV also stated that the Occupational Safety and Health Administration has been notified of the death in compliance with the eight hours reporting requirement for workplace incidents.

"OSHA 1904.39(a)(1): within eight hours after the death of any employee as a result of a work-related incident, you must report the fatality to the Occupational Safety and Health Administration, U.S. Department of Labor," RNV stated.

An earlier report stated that the man had died of natural causes.

Based on RNV's incident report, at about 2:30pm last March 4, all the workers stationed at the Chalan Kanoa project, including Villegas, took shelter at the worker's staging area due to the bad weather. During this brief break, RNV said Villegas told one of his co-workers that he felt "uncomfortable."

At around 2:35pm, the rain had subsided and all the workers decided to go back to work.

RNV said the project foreman advised Villegas to stay in the staging area to rest if he was still feeling uncomfortable and he obliged.

At around 2:45pm, RNV reports that the workers rushed down to the staging area again because of heavy rainfall and that's when they found Villegas lying lifeless on the makeshift bench where they had left him earlier. Workers immediately called 911 for emergency assistance and medics arrived at the jobsite at about 3pm and transported Villegas to the Commonwealth Health Center.

RNV said an RNV project engineer received a phone call from a jobsite foreman reporting that Villegas was found lying in an improvised wooden bench inside the construction site staging area at around 2:56pm. ***(Kimberly B. Esmores)***

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Probation is revoked for man in license fraud case

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Manglona

The U.S. District Court for the NMI has revoked the probation of a man involved in license fraud because he violated the terms of his release, which includes not driving a vehicle.

Mingjin Jin self-surrendered to Department of Corrections last Monday following an order from District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona last week.

In revoking Jin's probation, he is to serve a three-month sentence after he was seen by a probation officer driving a car without a driver's license last February, which violates his release conditions.

In addition, Jin was ordered to serve two years of supervised release after he completes his sentence.

Jin, whose term of probation was supposed to expire on May 27, 2022, was told not to operate a vehicle as part of the terms of his release.

Jin, represented by court-appointed attorney Steven Pixley, admitted that he violated these probation conditions.

Back in 2021, the district court sentenced Jin to one-year probation for presenting a fake driver's license and fake vehicle registration during a traffic stop in 2019. He was convicted of conspiracy to unlawfully produce an identification document.

On Feb. 2, 2022, however, a probation officer saw Jin operating a vehicle without a driver's license.

Jin also admitted that he had purchased the vehicle.

Jin, who was indicted on Nov. 24 2020, entered the CNMI back in 1991 as a garment worker, but lost his immigration status sometime before the Aug. 22, 2019, traffic stop that revealed he was using a fake driver's license and vehicle registration.

Currently, Jin has two minor sons who were both born on Saipan.

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COVID update: 55 new cases; 5 hospitalized

Fifty-five additional individuals have been confirmed positive for COVID-19, bringing the CNMI total to 10,284 cases since March 26, 2020.

Of the 55 cases identified on March 8, 2022, 11 were on Tinian. The vaccination statuses of these 55 cases are pending verification.

As of March 9, 2022, there were five individuals hospitalized as a result of COVID-19. One is unvaccinated and four are fully vaccinated.

In Guam, the Joint Information Center was notified of two COVID-19-related fatalities.

The 336th COVID-19-related fatality occurred at the Guam Regional Medical City on March 9, 2022. The patient was a 74-year-old male, unvaccinated, who had underlying health conditions and tested positive on Feb.

The 337th COVID-19-related fatality was pronounced dead on arrival at GRMC on March 9, 2022. The patient was a 75-year-old male, fully vaccinated without a booster, who had underlying health conditions and tested positive on March 4.

"Our hearts and prayers go out to their families and loved ones. May they find peace and healing," said Guam Gov.r Lou Leon Guerrero. "While our community looks forward to brighter days ahead, we must continue the protective measures that have helped us progress through this pandemic. Mask up, get vaccinated, and get boosted."

This comes as Guam reported 123 new cases and 33 hospitalized.

Of the 10,284 cases that have been identified in the CNMI, there have been 9,963 recoveries; 291 active cases; and 30 COVID-19-related deaths.

A total of 33 COVID-19 vaccine shots were administered on March 8, 2022; of the eligible population, 57.5% have already received an additional dose. The vaccination rate is calculated using the 2020 Census population estimates for the CNMI and includes the eligible 5-years-old and older population.

A total of 385 COVID-19 tests were conducted on March 8, 2022: 327 via Community-Based Testing; 33 at the Koblerville COVID-19 Community Center; and 25 at the Rota Health Center. ***(Saipan Tribune)***

Small craft advisory until Saturday

A small craft advisory is in effect from 6am Friday to 6am Saturday.

Northeast winds of 15 to 25 knots with gusts of up to 30 knots and seas of 7 to 9 feet are expected on Tinian and Saipan coastal waters, building to 8 to 10 feet Friday night.

Conditions will be hazardous to small craft. Inexperienced mariners, especially those operating smaller vessels, should avoid navigating in these hazardous conditions. ***(PR)***

Head Start, Early Head Start accepting applications

The Public School System's Head Start/Early Head Start Program continues to actively accept applications for the next school year, SY 2022-2023.

Head Start/Early Head Start is a federally funded pre-school and infant/toddler program that provides comprehensive services to eligible children and families. The center-based program includes developmentally appropriate learning, family engagement, nutritious meals, health services and support for children with special needs.

Head Start serves pre-school children ages 3 to 4 years old on Saipan, Tinian and Rota. Early Head Start serves infants and toddlers aged 6 weeks to 36 months on Saipan.

To be considered for a slot for enrollment at the beginning of school year 2021-2022, submit your child's application on or before June 10, 2022. Families will receive a notice from the program about their child's enrollment status after it has been screened for eligibility. Any child not selected for enrollment will be placed on the waitlist. Age eligible children on our current school year 21-22 waitlist will need to submit an updated application for the new school year. The school age cutoff date is Sept. 30, 2022; children who will be 5 years old on or before that date should register for kindergarten.

For information about the application and eligibility process, call (670) 664-3761/323-7446/323-7447 or email hsehs@cnmipss.org. ***(PR)***

BONUSES

From Page 1

Senate unanimously adopted yesterday Senate Joint Resolution 22-09 approving Gov. Ralph DLG Torres' request to create a new program and business unit for the government retirees' $1,000 bonuses.

During a Senate session at the Tinian Superior Courthouse, all nine senators voted "yes" for the adoption of the resolution. Sens. Paul A. Manglona (Ind-Tinian), Edith E. DeLeon Guerrero (D-Saipan), and Teresita A. Santos (Ind-Rota) voted "yes" with reservations.

Senate Joint Resolution 22-09, which was pre-filed Monday by Senate President Jude U. Hofschneider (R-Tinian) and five other Republican senators, also approves Torres' request to reprogram $2.6 million from within the Executive Branch for the payment of the retirees' bonuses.

"Because the MVA [Marianas Visitors Authority] fund is on the hook, I will not frustrate MVA [under my watch]," said an emotional Hofschneider before instructing the clerk to call the roll for the votes. The president delivered his statements mostly in the vernacular.

The joint resolution does not include any language giving the governor 100% reprogramming authority, which was the main issue why the House Democrat representatives opposed the previous Senate version of the bill for retirees' bonuses.

The joint resolution states that the Finance secretary shall report all reprogramming pursuant to this resolution in writing to the chairman of the Senate Committee on Fiscal Affairs and the House Committee on Ways and Means within 30 days after the reprogramming of funds.

Before the voting, senators expressed their opinions about the joint resolution.

Hocog pointed out that the House conferees had proposed to remove $850,000 from the Marianas Visitors Authority's $3.1 million budget in fiscal year 2022, yet there was no discussion with the MVA managing director or its board of directors whether that would cripple MVA's activities and operations.

He said that of MVA's $3.1 million budget, $1.1 million is funded by the American Rescue Plan Act and that MVA has already encumbered $771,000 for personnel and all other costs. The senator said MVA will be left with $560,000 for "all others" by the remaining of the fiscal year and not excluding the personnel costs.

"So if we are strengthening our revitalization of tourism, why are we killing the… very agency that provides us the opportunity for economic growth and enhancement?" Hocog asked.

"All I see here is a political posturing," he added.

Hocog said it is a political issue and that he is sad that some senators are embracing the House's action and not their own counterparts.

A longer version of this story is available at www. saipantribune.com

BUSAN

From Page 1

Saipan as of last week, with the first flight last Sunday.

Air Busan concluded its charter flight service back in February but has decided to continue its Busan-Saipan route.

Torres said the CNMI could expect an increase in the number of flights from Busan as South Korea inches closer its summer season.

"There are additional flights being considered or prepared, but it would be premature to announce confirmation at this time. Overall, we anticipate a continued increase in the number of weekly flights through the summer months and hopefully beyond," she said.

Air Busan's next flight is set for March 13 and will continue through March 16, 20, 23, 27, and 30.

Meanwhile, Jeju Air has also confirmed that it be providing air service from Busan to Saipan from March 30 to Oct. 29 every Wednesday and Thursday.

In addition, Jeju Air, Asiana Airlines, and T'way Air will be providing air service between Incheon and Saipan until the end of March.

The added flights are to accommodate the extended Tourism Resumption Investment Plan that is expected to bring in thousands of South Korean tourist to the CNMI by the end of the fiscal year.

Last week, Torres said with the extension of TRIP, MVA has decided to cease incentives like Travel Bucks as visitors from Korea are being increasingly self-motivated to travel. However, the CNMI will still be providing free PCR tests for visitors returning to Korea.

Since the program's inception in July 2021, Torres said the CNMI has seen a slow but gradual increase in the number of visitors under the TRIP program, so they have systematically been adjusting the incentives. Overall, MVA believes that this is a testament to the success of the TRIP program.

"We can say our plan to use TRIP to jumpstart the Marianas tourism economy has been a success. However, travel worldwide remains low, so we still have a long way to recovery, including the reboot of other source markets. MVA continues to support and collaborate with our airlines, travel agents, and other stakeholders for a sustainable and safe recovery," she said.

SENATE

From Page 1

During the Senate's session at the Tinian Superior Courthouse, Hofschneider announced the appointment of senators to the special committee on impeachment hearing. They are Sen. Karl R. King-Nabors (R-Tinian) as chairman, Sen. Justo S. Quitugua (R-Saipan) as vice chairman, and members Sens. Francisco Q. Cruz (R-Tinian), Victor B. Hocog (R-Rota), and Teresita A. Santos (Ind-Rota).

"I will be issuing a memo for your perusal," Hofschneider told committee members.

Hofschneider earlier tasked King-Nabors and Cruz, chairpersons of the Committee on Judiciary, Government, Law, and Federal Relations, and Committee on Executive, Appointments and Government Investigations, respectively, to draft the Impeachment Rules.

The joint committees agreed that House Resolution 22-14 that impeached Torres should only be tackled after the full Senate's adoption of the 28-page Impeachment Rules, which the full Senate did last March 3.

The adoption of Impeachment Rules sets the stage for what is expected to be a partisan brawl between the Republican-controlled Senate and the Democrat-controlled House of Representatives that will decide whether to remove or not Torres as governor. Torres, who is the titular head of the CNMI Republican Party, is seeking re-election this Nov. 8 election.

NMC

From Page 1

response to Super Typhoon Yutu and to the COVID-19 pandemic; and for its resilient faculty, student, and staff who have remained steadfast amidst geopolitical uncertainties and socioeconomic disruptions.

Even NMC president Dr. Galvin Deleon Guerrero admits they were happily surprised by the eight-year accreditation. He said during yesterday's press briefing that they were "reasonably expecting" to get a six-year accreditation term, with a midterm visit. With the eight years now in the bag, the next review is scheduled in the fall of 2029.

Deleon Guerrero said the accreditation is a clear demonstration of the college's commitment to providing quality education and services as an institution of higher education, adding that the accreditation is an important prerequisite for students to qualify for federal financial aid.

Deleon Guerrero said the many crises that the college and its students have gone through have also prepared them to surmount the latest challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic.

"Many institutions across the nation, [it] took them months to reopen, even virtually," Deleon Guerrero said. "NMC was back at it virtually within weeks, and it was because we had been tested through the crucible of Super Typhoon Yutu, Typhoon Soudelor, and Typhoon Mangkhut, and we knew what it took to get back on track."

WASC evaluates and accredits educational institutions in different parts of the world, including California, Hawaii, Guam, and the CNMI, and is recognized by the U.S. Department of Education and the Council for Higher Education Accreditation.

The commission commended NMC for its strong and supportive relations with the CNMI government. At the accreditation announcement yesterday, Gov. Ralph DLG Torres recalled how his heart broke walking into the devastated NMC campus soon after Yutu hit, and highlighted the resiliency of its faculty and students to bounce back.

"This is an opportunity of a lifetime for us to build a campus for all of us, our children, our grandchildren; [an opportunity to build] something that is state-of-the-art [for us] to be proud of. But we won't be here if it's not for the community," the governor said before appealing to private organizations to invest in NMC.

"This is a real success for all of us," Torres said. "At the end of the day, we all sail in one direction—that is to succeed and give our children, our students, the opportunity that will make the CNMI proud."

WASC also praised NMC for its effective management of limited financial resources and for the new Facilities Master Plan that is the blueprint for the college's future developments, with a close to $100 million in funds secured to put up the new buildings within the next five years.

"All of these commendations are a true reflection of how amazing the college is and the commission wants us to do more. They've seen what we can do and they expect us to do more," the NMC president said.

A longer version of this story is available at www. saipantribune.com

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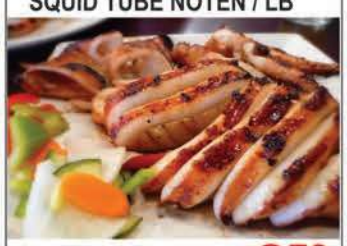
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Kilili wins $4.5M for NMI community projects in spending bill

WASHINGTON, D.C.—The U.S. House of Representatives concluded negotiations and passed a federal spending bill for fiscal year 2022 yesterday that contains nine of Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan's requests for community projects in the Marianas—worth $4,527,533—that is expected to pass the Senate and be signed by the President within a few days.

In addition to the $4.5 million earmarked for the Marianas, Sablan was also able to keep funding for the Nutrition Assistance Program at $30 million, the same as in the fiscal 2021 spending bill and more than double the $12 million the Marianas was previously receiving.

IN BRIEF
- $30M more for NAP
- Low Medicaid match extended
- Pell grants up $400
- School funding increase
- ·Higher water/sewer monies continued
- $11M to lower energy costs

"We were also able to keep the Marianas' matching rate for federal Medicaid money at 17%," Sablan said. "This is lower than the matching rate for all but one state government.

"Together with the increased funding for Medicaid—$64 million this year—the low local match will ensure over 15,000 people in the Marianas continue to receive health care through Medicaid." Sablan increased the legal limit for Marianas Medicaid from about $6 million to $60 million in U.S. Public Law 116-94 two years ago. The money is adjusted each year based on rising costs.

Also important to the Marianas in this year's federal spending bill is a $400 boost in Pell grants, a 6% increase in public school funding, continuation of a 1.5% set-aside for water and sewer money worth $7.2 million, and $11 million for grants to lower the cost of electricity in the insular areas.

'Earmarks'

Sablan was able to include in the bill nine of his requests for community projects in the Marianas. Recipients include:

Commonwealth Healthcare Corp.

- $980,639 for IT upgrades to increase interoperability between islands and facilitate patient record storage, allowing for greater use of telehealth.
- $391,500 to expand home dialysis on Rota.
- $1,200,000 to renovate and modernize laboratory facilities to meet national standards and codes.

Public School System

- $150,000 for school library expansion, including a district-wide e-library.
- $150,000 to collect body mass index data school-wide and use that information to encourage young people to stay physically active.
- $350,000 to expand the successful language and cultural heritage immersion program of Kagman Elementary School to more public elementary schools.

Northern Marianas College

- $952,394 for an innovation incubator at the College's Small Business Development Center.

Karidat

- $50,000 for a generator and housing for Guma Esperansa.

NMI Judiciary

· $303,000 to determine the viability of a mental health treatment court with a specific docket for veterans.

"This year for the first time since 2010 members of Congress have agreed to allow direct funding for specific organizations in our home districts," Sablan said. "I want to thank all these organizations that submitted their proposals to me. …Because of their high quality, appropriators accepted nine of the 10 project proposals we submitted—an excellent batting average."

Sablan is already compiling project ideas to submit to the House Appropriations Committee in the next weeks for fiscal 2023 earmarks.

Good news for health and nutrition

The Commonwealth government will be able to access $64,010,000 in federal Medicaid funds this year with only a 17% local match under terms of yesterday's bill. This local match is lower than every state's except Mississippi's and would otherwise have reverted to 38.8%, more than doubling the cost of Medicaid for the Commonwealth government.

The 17% match is effective only through Dec. 13, 2022, but Sablan has successfully led the insular area delegation in lobbying to keep the match at this level. They had it extended in October, December, and February in continuing resolutions, as well as in yesterday's full-year funding measure.

The Commonwealth will also continue to have the benefit of substantially increased funding, $30 million, for its NAP.

Last October, about 2,000 more Marianas families became eligible for food assistance and benefits increased 23% because of the $30 million Sablan included in the American Rescue Plan for Marianas food aid.

For a family of four on Saipan the monthly benefit maximum rose to $1,231, on Rota and the Northern Islands $1,498, and on Tinian $1,301. Benefits were then higher than in the contiguous 48 U.S. states, the District of Columbia, and the U.S. Virgin Islands. Yesterday's funding should allow benefits to continue at that level.

A longer version of this story is available at www. saipantribune.com

The Mobility Space is
Getting Greener
in the Northern Mariana Islands
The mobility space is getting greener in the Northern Mariana Islands, as Enterprise Saipan announced today that it has acquired hybrid vehicles as part of its fleet of vehicles serving Saipan.
This investment not only supports demand for safe and reliable mobility options during the COVID-19 crisis but also demonstrates Enterprise's commitment to supporting local economies and driving forward environmentally friendly modes of transportation across the islands as they move out of travel restrictions.
Enterprise Saipan also upholds its commitment to maintaining the highest standards of cleanliness in the car rental industry through theimplementation of the Enterprise Complete Clean Pledge.
The Pledge further enhances cleaning protocols across Enterprise Holdings' brands and comprehensive portfolio of transportation options. This includes vehicle washing, vacuuming, general wipe down, and sanitizing with a disinfectant that meets leading health authority requirements, with particular attention to more than 20 high-touch points.

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DIVISION OF COASTAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT

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TEL. NO. 664-8300 FAX NO. 664-8315 • www.dcrm.gov.mp

NOTICE OF APPLICATION

as of March 11, 2022

THE FOLLOWING IS A PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE COASTAL PERMIT APPLICATIONS RECEIVED BY THE DCRM OFFICES:

APPLICANT	DATE APPLICATION RECEIVED	APPLICATION PROJECT DESCRIPTION	LOCATION	TYPE	STATUS
1. Resources Management International Corporation (RMIC)	01/28/2022 SMS-2022-015	Rock Crushing & Rock Quarry Operations	As Matuis, Saipan	Major Siting	Public Hearing* 03/15/2022
2. Marianas Visitors Authority (MVA)	02/15/2022 TPIm-2022-004	Temporary Toilets & Showers for (Tinian Pika Festival)	San Jose, Tinian	Ports & Industrial	Approved* 02/28/2022
3. Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC)	02/18/2022 SSCH-2022-018	Construction & Installation of 2" Waterline (Dotse Place)	Gualo Rai, Saipan	Shoreline, Coastal Hazards	Approved* 02/25/2022
4. Saipan Crewboats, Inc	02/24/2022 SPIm-2022-019	Drydock of C/B Patriot	Lowerbase, Saipan	Ports & Industrial	Approved* 02/25/2022

NMIAC §15-10-210 of the CRM Rules and Regulations requires all permit applications to be published in a newspaper for general circulation within the CNMI within 15 days of receipt of application. The list reflects recently received permit applications and those with a recent change in status. New applications are marked with an asterisk (*).

The Public is invited to submit written comments regarding any of the above projects for which a permit decision has not been issued. All permit comments should identify the project by application number. Your comments should be mailed or hand-delivered to the DCRM Office. All persons who desire a public hearing regarding any project may do so by submitting a written request for a public hearing to the DCRM Office within fourteen (14) days for minor permits (APCs) and proposed amended major sitings. Public Hearings are required for all new major siting projects. All public hearing notices are published in a local newspaper of general circulation. Residents of Rota and Tinian may submit comments and hearing requests to their local DCRM Coordinator. Persons wishing to retain the right to appeal a DCRM Permit decision must file a notice of appeal with the DCRM office within thirty (30) days of the issuance of the DCRM permit decision as provided in Part 200 § 15-10-235 of the DCRM Regulations.

Revenue and Taxation
Department of Finance

P.O. Box 5234 CHRB Saipan, MP 96950 Tel. (670) 664-1000 Fax: (670) 664-1015

EITC ANNOUNCEMENT

Changes to the earned income tax credit for the 2022 filing season

The EITC is one of the federal government's largest refundable tax credits for low-to moderate-income families. The recent expansion of this credit means that more people may qualify to have some much-needed money put back in their pocket.

The CNMI Division of Revenue & Taxation urges people to check to see if they qualify for this important credit. While people with income under a certain amount aren't required to file a tax return because they won't owe any tax, those who qualify for EITC may get a refund if they file a 2021 tax return.

Here's an overview of the recent notable changes to the EITC for tax year 2021 only:

Expanded EITC for people who do not have qualifying children
More workers without qualifying children can qualify for the EITC, and the maximum credit amount is nearly tripled for these taxpayers this year. For the first time, the credit is now available to both younger workers and senior citizens. There is no upper age limit for claiming the credit if taxpayers have earned income.

The EITC is generally available to workers without qualifying children who are at least 19 years old with earned income below $21,430 for those filing single and $27,380 for spouses filing a joint return. The maximum credit for taxpayers with no qualifying children is $1,502. There are also special exceptions for people who are 18 years old and were formerly in foster care or are experiencing homelessness. Full-time students under age 24 don't qualify.

Some taxpayers can use 2019 earned income to figure their EITC
Taxpayers can elect to use their 2019 earned income to figure their 2021 earned income credit if their 2019 earned income is more than their 2021 earned income. This option may help workers get a larger credit if they earned less in 2021 from employment. Taxpayers can use line 27c of Form 1040-CM.

Phaseouts and credit limits For 2021, the amount of the credit has been increased and the phaseout income limits have been expanded.

Any third-round Economic Impact Payments or child tax credit payments received are not taxable or counted as income for purposes of claiming the EITC. People who are missing a stimulus payment or got less than the full amount may be eligible to claim the recovery rebate credit on their 2021 tax return.

New law changes expand the EITC for 2021 and future years. These changes include:

• More workers and working families who also have investment income can get the credit. Starting in tax year 2021, the amount of investment income they can receive and still be eligible for the EITC increases to $10,000. After 2021, the $10,000 limit is indexed for inflation. EITC ANNOUNCEMENT

• Married but separated spouses can choose to be treated as not married for the purposes claiming EITC. To qualify, the spouse claiming the credit cannot file jointly with the other spouse. They must have a qualifying child living with them for more than half the year and either:

- o Do not have the same principal residence as the other spouse for at least the last six months out of the year.
- o Are legally separated according to their state law under a written separation agreement or a decree of separate maintenance and not live in the same household as their spouse at the end of the tax year for which the EITC is being claimed. Taxpayers should file Schedule EIC and check the box showing them as married filing separately with a qualifying child.

• Single people and couples with children who have Social Security numbers can claim the credit, even if their children do not have SSNs. In this instance, they will get the smaller credit available to workers who do not have qualifying children. Taxpayers should complete Schedule EIC and attach it to Form 1040-CM if they have at least one qualifying child, even if the child doesn't have a valid SSN. For more information, taxpayers should review the instructions for Form 1040-CM, line 27a, and Schedule EIC.

For more on earned income tax credit please visit www.irs.gov/eitc or talk to your tax preparer.

NOAA extends comment period for review of Trench nomination

Last Jan. 21, 2022, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's Office of National Marine Sanctuaries initiated a review of the Mariana Trench National Marine Sanctuary nomination, which was set to expire on March 13, 2022, after five years in the sanctuary nomination inventory. The announcement included an opportunity for public comment.

Following a request for additional time to provide comments, NOAA has announced the reopening of the public comment period from March 10 to April 25, 2022. The nomination will remain in the inventory until NOAA makes a determination following the extended comment period.

The Office of National Marine Sanctuaries will then determine if the Mariana Trench National Marine Sanctuary nomination will remain in the inventory for an additional five years.

NOAA has not initiated a designation process for this site. The purpose of the five-year review is to determine if the nomination remains accurate and responsive to the 11 criteria on national significance and management considerations.

Written comments must be received by April 25, 2022. Comments may be entered on the Federal eRulemaking Portal: https://www.regulations.gov. Submit electronic comments via the Federal eRulemaking Portal and search for Docket Number NOAA-NOS-2022-0005.

To comment by mail: Kristina Kekuewa, Pacific Islands regional director, NOAA Office of National Marine Sanctuaries, 1845 Wasp Blvd., Honolulu, Hawaii 96818. To comment by email: Kristina.Kekuewa@noaa.gov.

The Office of National Marine Sanctuaries hosted a virtual public scoping meeting on Feb. 12, 2022, to collect public comments, and will hold another virtual meeting on Thursday, March 31, 2022, from 12pm to 3pm ChST (Guam/Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands)/Wednesday, March 30, 2022, from 4pm to 7pm HST (Hawaii).

To register, visit https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/1179203552492044303.

For more information about the nomination or five-year review process, visit nominate.noaa.gov. ***(PR)***

'Even at height of pandemic, investors take risk in marijuana industry'

Even during the height of COVID-19 pandemic in September 2020, the CNMI Cannabis Commission saw people willing to take the risk in investing in the marijuana industry, according to CCC managing director Monique Sablan.

In her presentation before the House of Representatives Commission on Cannabis Tuesday, Sablan the marijuana industry opened in August 2020 when the online portal for commercial and non-commercial license applications was opened. Just a month later, in September 2020, they received about nine to 10 applications, she said, which Sablan found very interesting because the CNMI was at the height of the COVID-19 pandemic at the time.

She said from September 2020 all the way to 2021, they received applications for a marijuana producer license, marijuana wholesaler, marijuana processor, marijuana retailer, and marijuana lounge. She said with the five different production licenses that were issued within the last year, a total of 17 jobs—three part-time and 14 full-time—were created. Sablan said these are jobs range from owner to head grower, grower assistant, production manager, farm assist, farmer, and others.

Some have overlapping positions, such as the owner who acts as grower or the head grower. "But almost always they have a secondary employee, either a farm assistant or growing assistant. But for the rest of them, they're really new jobs that have been created," she said.

Sablan said there are three retailers that have a total of 15 job positions—12 part-time and three full-time.

As more applicants continue to be licensed, that will translate to more jobs, she said.

"Remember that there's so many variations and sizes. Some people want to have a small retail shop, some people want to open up a larger retail shop. Some people want to be producer class 3 versus micro producer," she said.

She said the Business Gross Revenue reported per month from a combination of all the licenses range from $81,464 in July 2021 all the way up to $171,978 in December 2021.

"We've only really seen the industry grow…since July [2021]," Sablan said, adding that this is only six months worth of information and data. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY(CPA)
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AMENDED NOTICE TO BIDDERS

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY (CPA) is inviting qualified contractors to submit their qualifications and bid proposals for the **FRANCISCO C. ADA/SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT AIR TRAFFIC CONTROL TOWER RENOVATION PROJECT**, SAIPAN, COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS, PROJECT NO. CPA-SA-004-17.

Bidders are to submit one original and two copies of their bid which shall be sealed in an envelope and marked on the cover package outside as follows: *"Air Traffic Control Tower Renovation Project for the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, Saipan, CNMI, Project No. CPA-SA-004-17"* and submitted no later than **2:00 PM, MONDAY, APRIL 11, 2022**, to the Office of the Executive Director, CPA Administration, 2nd floor of the Arrival Terminal at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport at which time and place the sealed proposals will be publicly opened and read. Bidders are requested to minimize their company's attendees to ensure social distancing, as well as wear a face mask at all times while at the airport.

The Project, in general, consists of, but is not limited, repairs and improvements to the Air Traffic Control Tower inclusive of restrooms, kitchens, ceiling, flooring, walls, cab and catwalk, diagonal bracings, antenna supports, air conditioning, ventilation, plumbing, fire, jockey pump systems, electrical equipment and other miscellaneous work on non-damaged components necessary for required repair of damaged components, all in accordance with the Project Drawings and Specifications.

The Project is being financed by funds from the Commonwealth Ports Authority. The contract award, if it is to be made, will be made within one hundred twenty (120) calendar days from the receipt of bids. CPA reserves the right to hold such bids in effect for one hundred eighty (180) calendar days from the date of bid opening.

The contract period for construction of the project in its entirety shall be **FOUR HUNDRED TWENTY (420) calendar days**.

Liquidated damages in the amount of **ONE THOUSAND ($1,000.00) Dollars** shall be assessed the Contractor for each calendar day that the completion of the Project is delayed beyond the contract completion date without approved excuse.

A DVD containing the Contract Documents including plans and specifications, may be obtained at the CPA Accounting Office, 2nd floor of the Departure Terminal at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, upon the payment of **TWO HUNDRED FIFTY DOLLARS (US $250.00)** for each set of plans and documents in electronic form (DVD). The payment is nonrefundable. Payment shall be made in cash, credit card, cashier's check or U.S. postal money order payable to the "Commonwealth Ports Authority". Bidders should notify CPA immediately if there are issues retrieving the files in the DVD.

A pre-bid conference will be held at the ARFF Classroom at the Saipan Airport Fire Station, at **10:00 AM, FRIDAY, MARCH 11, 2022**, to explain and clarify any questions regarding this project. A site visit will follow the pre-bid conference. The pre-bid and site visit are not mandatory. However, it is the bidders' responsibility to familiarize themselves with the project location and conditions. Bidders are requested to minimize their company's attendees to ensure social distancing, as well as face wear a mask at all times while at the airport. For site visits after the pre-bid conference, bidders are to coordinate with Mr. Edward Mendiola, CPA's Deputy Director, at edmendiola@cnmiports.com or telephone number (670) 237-6505.

Bidders attention is called to the fact that this is a renovation project, and the bid is to be lump sum inclusive of all work described in the contract documents including all labor, equipment, materials (including excess waste materials), necessary fittings and accessories. Lump sum work shall include all work on existing concealed elements referenced by the contract documents or required for completion of any other elements specifically refereced in the contract documents.

Questions should be submitted to the Executive Director, Commonwealth Ports Authority, in writing, or emailed to Ms. Wendi L. Prater, Executive Assistant/Project Manager at wprater@cnmiports.com at least fourteen (14) days prior to the bid opening date.

Each bid proposal shall be on a form furnished by the Commonwealth Ports Authority. The bidders shall use the bid schedule form available on the DVD. Each bidder must also supply all information required by the bid proposal documents and specifications.

Each bid shall be accompanied by either a bid bond by a U.S. Treasury listed surety company, a certified check, or a cashier's check in the amount not less than ten percent (10%) of the bid price. Checks shall be made payable to the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

By submitting a bid/proposal under this solicitation, the bidder or offeror certifies that neither it nor its principals are presently debarred or suspended by any Federal department or agency from participation in this transaction.

The apparent low bidder will be subject to a thorough and comprehensive review of its qualifications and Bid Documents to ensure that they are "responsive and responsible." This review will include, but is not necessarily limited to previous project experience, financial capabilities, quality of equipment and personnel, bonding and insurance. If the apparent low bidder is found not to be "responsive or responsible", their bid will be rejected and the next lowest bidder will be evaluated for qualifications.

All mechanics and laborers for this procurement project shall be paid no less than the minimum wage rate established by the CNMI or the U.S. Secretary of Labor, whichever is higher. A copy of the Department of the Federal Labor Wage Rate Determination is included in Section GP 70-27 of the specifications. The bidder shall take into account minimum wage increases that may be imposed in the CNMI over the life of the Contract and include associated costs in the bid proposal. The EEO requirements, labor provisions, and wage rates are included in the specifications, and bid proposal documents are available for inspection at the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

The Commonwealth Ports Authority, in accordance with the provisions of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (78 Stat. 252, 42 USC §§ 2000d to 2000d-4) and the Regulations, hereby notifies all bidders or offerors that it will affirmatively ensure that any contract entered into pursuant to this advertisement, disadvantaged business enterprises will be afforded full and fair opportunity to submit bids in response to this invitation and will not be discriminated against on the grounds of race, color, or national origin in consideration for an award.

The United States Secretary of Transportation has granted the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands an exemption from the requirements of the Department of Transportation's Minority Business Enterprise (MBE) regulation, which later became the Department of Transportation's Disadvantaged Business Enterprise program, as it relates to FAA grant programs. The Secretary of Transportation has not determined that a portion of those requirements should be reinstated.

In addition to the above, all bidders shall comply with all other Federal requirements under this procurement, including but not limited to Buy American Preference, Foreign Trade Restriction, Davis Bacon, Veteran's Preference, Affirmative Action and Governmentwide Debarment and Suspension and Governmentwide Requirements for Drug-free Workplace. Further details on all Federal requirements are provided in the specifications.

The Commonwealth Ports Authority reserves the right to reject any or all bid proposals submitted for: (a) any of the reasons set forth in this Notice to Bidders; or (b) any of the reasons set forth in the CPA Procurement Rules and Regulations regarding bid rejection or cancellation; (c) any calculation error made in the bid schedule or misenter of the quantity of line item; or (d) sufficient justification exists that awarding the project contract would not be in the best interest of CPA. CPA further reserves the right to waive any defects in said bids if in its sole opinion to do so would be in CPA's best interest.

FOR THE COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY:

/s/ CHRISTOPHER S. TENORIO
Executive Director

Date: March 10, 2022

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY(CPA)
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NOTICE TO BIDDERS

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY (CPA) is inviting qualified contractors to submit their qualifications and bid proposals for the **FRANCISCO C. ADA/SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT PASSENGER LOADING BRIDGES 1, 4 AND 5 REPLACEMENT AND ISOLATED SPALL REPAIRS TO PCC PAVEMENT AT GATES 1, 2, 3, 4 AND 5**, SAIPAN, OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS, PROJECT NO. CPA-SA-002-20.

Bidders are to submit one original and two copies of their bid which shall be sealed in an envelope and marked on the cover package outside as follows: *"Passenger Loading Bridges 1, 4 and 5 Replacement and Isolated Spall Repairs to PCC Pavement at Gates 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5 for the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, Saipan, CNMI, Project No. CPA-SA-002-20"* and submitted no later than **2:00 p.m., FRIDAY, APRIL 8, 2022**, to the Office of the Executive Director, 2nd floor of the Arrival Terminal at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, at which time and place the sealed proposals will be publicly opened and read.

The Project, in general, consists of, but is not limited to replacement of three existing passenger boarding bridges at Gates 1, 4, and 5 with new apron-drive bridges and isolated spall repairs to PCC pavement at Gates 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5 at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport including all associated work, all in accordance with the Project Drawings and Specifications.

The Project is being financed by funds from the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) and Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA). The Contract provides that the Contractor shall invoice for labor and materials for passenger boarding bridge replacement at Gate 1 separately from the invoice for passenger boarding bridges replacement at Gates 4 and 5 and spall repairs at Gates 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5 (which may be invoiced together).

The contract award, if it is to be made, will be made within one hundred twenty (120) calendar days from the receipt of bids. CPA reserves the right to hold such bids in effect for one hundred eighty (180) calendar days from the date of bid opening.

The contract period for construction of the project in its entirety shall be **FIVE HUNDRED SIXTY EIGHT (568) calendar days if awarded all three bridges.** Duration may adjust based on funding availability which will determine the number of bridges to be replaced.

Liquidated damages in the amount of **ONE THOUSAND ($1,000.00) Dollars** shall be assessed the Contractor for each calendar day that the completion of the Project is delayed beyond beyond the contract completion date without approved excuse.

The apparent low bidder will be subject to a thorough and comprehensive review of its qualifications and Bid Documents to ensure that they are "responsive and responsible." This review will include, but is not necessarily limited to previous project experience, financial capabilities, quality of equipment and personnel, and bonding and insurance. If the apparent low bidder is found not to be "responsive or responsible", their bid will be rejected and the next lowest bidder will be evaluated for qualifications.

A DVD containing the plans and specification, including the Bid Proposal and Contract Documents, may be obtained at the CPA Accounting Office, 2nd floor of the Departure Terminal at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, upon the payment of **TWO HUNDRED FIFTY DOLLARS ($250.00)** for each set of plans and documents in electronic form (DVD). The payment is nonrefundable. Payment shall be made in cash, credit card, cashier's check or U.S. postal money order payable to the "Commonwealth Ports Authority".

A pre-bid conference will be held at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, at **10:00 a.m., MONDAY, MARCH 21, 2022**, at the Saipan Airport Conference Room, 2nd floor of the Departure Terminal, to explain and clarify any questions regarding this project. A site visit will follow the pre-bid conference. Questions should be submitted to the Executive Director, Commonwealth Ports Authority, in writing, or emailed to Ms. Wendi L. Prater, Executive Assistant/Project Manager at wprater@cnmiports.com at least ten (10) days prior to the bid opening date.

Each bid proposal shall be on a form furnished by the Commonwealth Ports Authority. The bidders shall use the bid schedule form available on the DVD. Each bidder must also supply all information required by the bid proposal documents and specifications.

The Commonwealth Ports Authority reserves the right to reject any or all bid proposals submitted for: (a) any of the reasons set forth in this Notice to Bidders; or (b) any of the reasons set forth in the CPA Procurement Rules and Regulations regarding bid rejection or cancellation; (c) any calculation error made in the bid schedule or misenter of the quantity of line item; or (d) sufficient justification exists that awarding the project contract would not be in the best interest of CPA. CPA further reserves the right to waive any defects in said bids if in its sole opinion to do so would be in CPA's best interest.

Each bid shall be accompanied by either a bid bond by a U.S. Treasury listed surety company, a certified check, or a cashier's check in the amount not less than ten percent (10%) of the bid price. Checks shall be made payable to the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

All mechanics and laborers for this procurement project shall be paid no less than the minimum wage rate established by the CNMI or the U.S. Secretary of Labor, whichever is higher. A copy of the Department of the Federal Labor Wage Rate Determination is included in Section GP 70-29 of the specifications. The bidder shall take into account minimum wage increases that may be imposed in the CNMI over the life of the Contract and include associated costs in the bid proposal. The EEO requirements, labor provisions, and wage rates are included in the specifications, and bid proposal documents are available for inspection at the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

The Commonwealth Ports Authority, in accordance with the provisions of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (78 Stat. 252, 42 USC §§ 2000d to 2000d-4) and the Regulations, hereby notifies all bidders or offerors that it will affirmatively ensure that any contract entered into pursuant to this advertisement, disadvantaged business enterprises will be afforded full and fair opportunity to submit bids in response to this invitation and will not be discriminated against on the grounds of race, color, or national origin in consideration for an award.

The United States Secretary of Transportation has granted the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands an exemption from the requirements of the Department of Transportation's Minority Business Enterprise (MBE) regulation, which later became the Department of Transportation's Disadvantaged Business Enterprise program, as it relates to FAA grant programs. The Secretary of Transportation has not determined that a portion of those requirements should be reinstated.

By submitting a bid/proposal under this solicitation, the bidder or offeror certifies that neither it nor its principals are presently debarred or suspended by any Federal department or agency from participation in this transaction.

In addition to the above, all bidders shall comply with all other Federal requirements under this procurement, including but not limited to Buy American Preference, Foreign Trade Restriction, Davis Bacon, Veteran's Preference, Affirmative Action and Governmentwide Debarment and Suspension and Governmentwide Requirements for Drug-free Workplace. Further details on all Federal requirements are provided in the specifications.

FOR THE COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY:

/s/ CHRISTOPHER S. TENORIO
Executive Director

Date: March 2, 2022

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SALE PRICE $1.49/LB

CHEESE CASTELLO HAVARTI DILL CHUNK 8OZ
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SALE PRICE $4.99

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Opinion

Hafa Adai
Saipan Tribune
THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
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EDITORIAL

More expensive gasoline is a small price to pay in the fight against tyranny

President Joe Biden's announcement Tuesday banning Russian oil imports presents what may be the most difficult test yet of Americans' willingness today to sacrifice for the nation's greater good. Already-high gas prices are sure to spike further with the ban, frustrating drivers and giving Republicans an opportunity to further demagogue the issue. The GOP should resist that urge—and all Americans should remember sacrifices that earlier generations made in times of war.

Pain at the pumps is real, but it pales against the pain of sending American soldiers into armed conflict against another superpower. Yet allowing Russia's invasion of Ukraine to go unanswered is also an unacceptable option. What's left is for this divided country to come together and accept the approaching economic pain as the price of standing up to tyranny.

That principle—standing up to tyranny—is the answer to the short-sighted voices suggesting the U.S. has no national interest in defending Ukraine. If Ukraine or any other fledgling democracy can simply be brought under the thumb of a neighboring autocrat for no reason but that he decides he wants it, then democracy isn't safe anywhere. America's special place as a beacon of democracy and freedom gives it a special responsibility to stand up to such unprovoked aggression.

But America must do so responsibly, and risking a shooting war between nuclear superpowers would be the height of irresponsibility. That effectively takes direct U.S. military action in Ukraine off the table. However, America's economic might, and its ability to rally other economies of the free world, can be the most effective weapon short of war. That is the weapon that Biden deployed with unprecedented force on Tuesday.

Banning all oil, natural gas and coal imports from Russia won't be crippling to America's economy—Russian energy is a modest portion of the U.S. supply—but it will be felt in the form of higher fuel and transportation prices. It will be, as Biden aptly called it, "Putin's price hike."

Unfortunately, some political voices in the U.S. have already been spreading misinformation that will complicate the issue. The often-heard Republican claim that Biden has diminished U.S. domestic oil production is simply false—lower production was the choice of oil companies because of a steep decline in demand during the pandemic. It takes time to ramp production back up. Given that these Republicans are among the critics who have been demanding that Biden "get tough" with Russia, this would be a good time for them to set aside this partisan opportunism and start pulling for the same team.

Regular Americans should take inspiration from the World War II generation, which lived through not only higher prices but rationed gasoline, butter, sugar, meat, dairy and other staples. They were doing their part to defend the world against tyranny. Now it needs defending again.

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New NMIFA soccer pitch to offer more opportunities for community to be active and healthy

TOGETHER, WE CAN
By VICKIE IZUKA
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Vickie Izuka was re-elected to be the Northern Mariana Islands Football Association's vice president in November 2020 and is the vice president and area manager at First Hawaiian Bank.

When we started the Northern Marianas Football Association's soccer program in 2005, we never expected to see the number of youth players develop and increase significantly in the last 17 years. We started with only 100 youth players from ages 4 to 15. Today, our total soccer membership, including adults, has grown to about 1,600 residents, which represents 4% of our local population. Our future hope is to introduce, develop, and grow the sport for the grassroots youth community while adding a fun, affordable, organized, and healthy alternative to the limited extracurricular options for young children in the Marianas.

Watching the youth soccer players grow up playing soccer, give their all with training and development, compete at the highest levels as Northern Mariana Islands national team members against countries such as Japan, Korea, China, Hong Kong, Taiwan, Macau, Mongolia, Guam, and other East and West Asian countries, has been truly astonishing to witness. NMIFA has seen 20 of its soccer players move on to play for college teams, including five soccer players who committed in 2022. This shows the success of the player pathway that NMIFA's program created. Soccer has been an integral part of some players' lives and has helped them to build confidence and set the foundation for leadership roles.

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
GOVERNOR'S COUNCIL OF ECONOMIC ADVISERS

When the association first started, our initial goal was to build one professional full-size pitch and continue to supplement with the existing schools and public fields. Our soccer training facility became a reality in 2018, and the recent groundbreaking of the NMIFA's second pitch is beyond all our expectations. Planned for completion in 2022, the second pitch will open more opportunities for domestic and international youth and adult soccer activities and competitions. We will be in a better position to promote sports tourism and provide a facility for the community to enjoy and be proud of.

The fast development of our soccer programs and our ability to reach out to more age groups within the community would not have been possible without the NMIFA's collaboration and partnership with the CNMI government. The CNMI government also crosses many branches and departments including Gov. Ralph DLG. Torres and his team, the executive and legislative branches, the Department of Public Lands, the Department of Community and Cultural Affairs, the Public School System, and the Northern Marianas Sports Association, to name. Thanks to the wonderful support of Gov. Ralph DLG Torres, the NMI Soccer Training Center became a reality and a proud home for our soccer community.

With this development philosophy, community support, and all the generous sponsorships and donations from our businesses and family of international soccer organizations, we hope to continue our mission to enable future generations to learn and love the sport. We want soccer to be a family activity, so we're continuing to work on how to accommodate different members of our community to promote the goals of having fun and living a healthy lifestyle. We want the community to take advantage and play with family, friends, and colleagues.

We're focused on expanding our men and women programs to encourage soccer moms and dads, who have played very little or not at all by organizing grassroot events where parents could play alongside their children. Soccer here is unique in the sense that you can be any age and participate as a family while engaging in a fun, active and healthy lifestyle.

Over the last few years, we have seen a growing portion of the community engaging in various outdoor activities such as running and biking among others. This shows us that our residents want to be more active and healthier. We highly encourage our community members to be active and explore activities that may be of interest to them. For our very passionate and skilled players, we wish to continue to create more opportunities to represent the CNMI flag and compete at the highest international levels.

GCEA's Public-Private Partnership has many activities to get involved in as well. You can stay active while giving back to the community. Many of our football clubs are PPP partners who are taking care of the Garapan Core medians, Guma Sakman medians, Garapan intersection medians, and the Koblerville village. The PPP program is truly inspirational and builds personal and organizational pride for those who participate. We look forward to seeing more participation from other sports organizations and the community at large.

For more information, visit the GCEA at cnmieconomy.com, on Facebook and Instagram (@cnmigov.economy), or contact them at gceacnmi@gmail.com.

EDITORIAL POLICY Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

When war comes calling, meet it with resolve. And love

By DEBILYN MOLINEAUX
The Fulcrum

Debilyn Molineaux is co-publisher of The Fulcrum and president/CEO of the Bridge Alliance Education Fund.

I grew up during the Cold War, when we hid under our desks for safety. As a child, I believed that I was doing my part by ducking under my desk and knowing how to respond when the air raid sirens went off. Crouching under a desk seems laughable today. But it gave me a sense of agency that I could survive and eased my anxiety about a world where the adults made decisions that seemed nonsensical.

For me, preparing and having tasks to do was calming. As an adult, this has translated into practical clarity of defining what is needed during moments (or periods) of crisis. Perhaps that is why I've spent time reflecting this past couple of weeks on what I would do if I were in Ukraine right now. And I imagine it's what the people of Ukraine are doing. Or the people in other countries, helping refugees. They are finding shelter, food and supplies. They are banding together to help others to safety. They are taking up arms when necessary. As their everyday lives are at risk, survival is the priority. This is practical clarity.

President Volodymyr Zelenskyy is meeting his moment with resolve. With love for his countrymen. With truth. He won the presidential election on the wave of The Revolution of Dignity as a counterforce to corruption and oligarchy. His leadership skills were sharpened when he led his people as the former president fled to Russia. He withstood bullying by Donald Trump. He is now in the crucible of transformation, under attack from a desperate man with an old desire for empire building. And Zelenskyy is asking for our help. Our government is balancing the needs of the United States, Europe and Ukraine. We don't want to escalate into World War III. It may not be our choice.

The people of the world want to help our brothers and sisters under threat. We've opened our hearts, our homes, and our wallets to do our individual tasks. As we witness the attack on Ukraine, we empathize, seeing ourselves under the thumb of an oppressor.

We also see the possibility of ending the modern patriarchy, featuring the authoritarians of our age—Putin, Xi, Kim, Orban, Trump—who want to restore an old world order of strong men. The world has changed despite their desire to control, and has done so without their permission. They will not go quietly into the night.

And so we must face these men and their followers. This style of autocracy has been around for about 5,000 years, beginning with the emergence of tribal communities around the world. They promise security to their supporters. Acolytes of this belief system seek a privileged place in a perverted hierarchy, where denigration, subjugation and oppression are part of everyday life for those not chosen.

Liberal democracy, as defined about 250 years ago, was the enlightened form of governance to mitigate the threat of authoritarians. Our belief in liberal democracy is in the crucible with Zelenskyy. How will we strengthen our resolve, with love, and avoid becoming the next oppressor?

The world has changed, and we need to meet the populist rhetoric and actions of autocracy to move forward with liberal democracy; where we value the embodiment of democratic processes over all else. When we honor the dignity of others, especially those who have been denigrated and marginalized, that is embodiment. Our shared belief in, and love for, our fellow humans is embodiment. Justice is embodiment. And while effusive and intangible in many ways, when we assume good intentions of our political opponent, that is embodiment.

The war is here. We are in it today. In most of the world, it's an information war. In Ukraine, it's a war for survival as an independent nation.

Let's meet the moment with resolve, and love. The age of authoritarianism is over.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Reality check

I wonder what Juan and Marie Q. Public are thinking when they read "rebuilding trust, resilience, and vision" at the bottom of Gov. Torres and Lt. Gov. Palacios' signs in small print. The fact that the most important thing they are promoting is in small print speaks loudly as to their real importance and it's flabbergasting when you think about who is saying these words. The truth and reality are they are just words on a sign that will soon be forgotten if by some miraculous event either of them get re-elected.

The reality is I don't trust these Republicans anymore after seeing the Senate murder our Constitution, laws, and ethical codes. I think the House should ask for "federal observers" in the pending election, given all the things that have transpired with a governor who is still under a RICO investigation, along with his loyal DPS commissioner who will be in charge of guarding the votes. It would be prudent and even safe to ask the feds for help. If Mr. "I-Have-Nothing-To-Hide" truly doesn't have anything to hide, he shouldn't mind the feds but he said that about explaining his alleged crimes, only to see him fighting to keep his executive assistant and himself from testifying.

Some may think I'm joking or just throwing potshots but I'm very serious as we can't put anything past this governor if we expect fair play—federal observers are truly warranted, proper and may even be necessary if the Senate does not impeach.

I truly thought Sen. Hofschneider was smarter, as his two daughters I taught were exceptional academic students and well-grounded. I don't know what happened to Dad, as I was truly thinking he would do the right thing. But he has chosen to put his career on the line for the governor, not the people! I'm just glad to see that there were two real Republican heroes in the House. Rep. Joel Camacho and Rep. John Paul have been the only Republicans so far who have chosen "right, just, and honor" over loyalty for the governor. I know that I'm always saying get rid of all the Republicans but I will be the first to say that everyone deserves a "second chance, especially when Joel Camacho and John Paul may be the only Republicans who deserve to be left standing after the dust settles on Judgment Day 2022. Only two of the younger Republicans did the right and just thing and thank you for being "real people," as we say in my culture.

On another issue, can the House please get to the bottom of the pot before election day, where the beans that IPI has been cooking are now burned and stuck to the pot. The allegations of Republican politicians preying on IPI for their personal intentions is a very serious matter and could even be RICO-related. In fact, it was so serious Mr. Yumul quit and didn't want any part of the mess. The reality is that it's past time for a real oversight-hearing on IPI and their status as the casino commission is just playing around and we the people have too much tied up (over $100 million) in this investment that is a big part of the reason our economic outcomes in the near future is so gloomy, which is why a reality check is truly needed for the people.

You, governor, tried to boast and brag about what you have done but the only thing you really mentioned were the "roads" but it was really the feds and American taxpayers who paid for our road improvements. Saying you have done a lot of things but only mentioning one that wasn't even yours, surely let voters with common sense know you were just deflecting, gaslighting and "poli-tricking" again. I used to teach my students that if you can't see, feel, or touch what your representatives in government have done, then they probably haven't done anything for you. I would like to humbly and respectfully ask voters, especially on Tinian and Luta, if you can think of three or even one major thing done by this governor or your senators that you can see, feel, or touch. If you can't, then it should be obvious what you need to do come Judgment Day—get new and better leaders; it's that simple.

Which reminds me, the people are also waiting to see what you and your Republican crew are going to do about Sen. Edith's bill to give the people $500 to help with the high price of gas. Stop the deflecting and gaslighting and start doing something real to help the people.

Ambrose M. Bennett
Kagman III, Saipan

'Pray for peace in Ukraine and our region'

The war in Ukraine that was invaded by Russia and its ruthless leader, Vladimir Putin, without threat or any compelling reason whatsoever reminds me of how fragile our world is today. It also reminded me of how lucky we are in the tiny Pacific islands whose relationship with the United States guarantees us protection from being invaded by a larger nation with powerful armies and military armaments.

How can you defend yourself here in the Mariana islands without the full backing of the U.S. military? We have no chance at all. Seeing Ukraine being bombarded and its people displaced, buildings, homes and infrastructure destroyed to the ground and, worst of all, being killed in this unjustified war is heart-wrenching to watch and comprehend. Watching young children cry because they lost their parents is so painful bear.

While the war is in Europe, a far-away continent, the ill effect and its associated wrath has no boundaries. Look at our gas prices today. It was only $4.26 last week and today it is over $6 per gallon. Who knows it may exceed $10 before the war is over. I could only pray for peace. Lord help us!

And those responsible for the killings will face their own demise when it's time to face our creator.

Meanwhile, I want to remind our people that it is important to acknowledge and be thankful for our relationship with the United States of America. Let us be reminded that the safety and security of our people should be priority No. 1. Our Covenant with the U.S. is not a perfect document. Yes, there are still issues that must be updated and improved for the benefit of both the U.S. and our Commonwealth.

The changing needs of our people must be part of the mix when it comes to the military requirements in our area. We must work with the U.S. government and its military to co-exist and to make sure that we are safe in the region. We've seen their financial assistance year after year, with lots of grants to finance not only our government, agencies, and instrumentalities but many non-profit organizations. Our people are benefiting from healthcare and Medicaid services and food subsidies, not to mention the financial windfall every time they declare the CNMI a disaster area after typhoons. Many other financial assistances like the Pandemic Unemployment Assistance and business payroll subsidies have benefited our people. Other islands and nations that are not affiliated politically with the United States do not benefit like we do. And so we must be thankful and frugal. Let us pray for peace in Ukraine and our region.

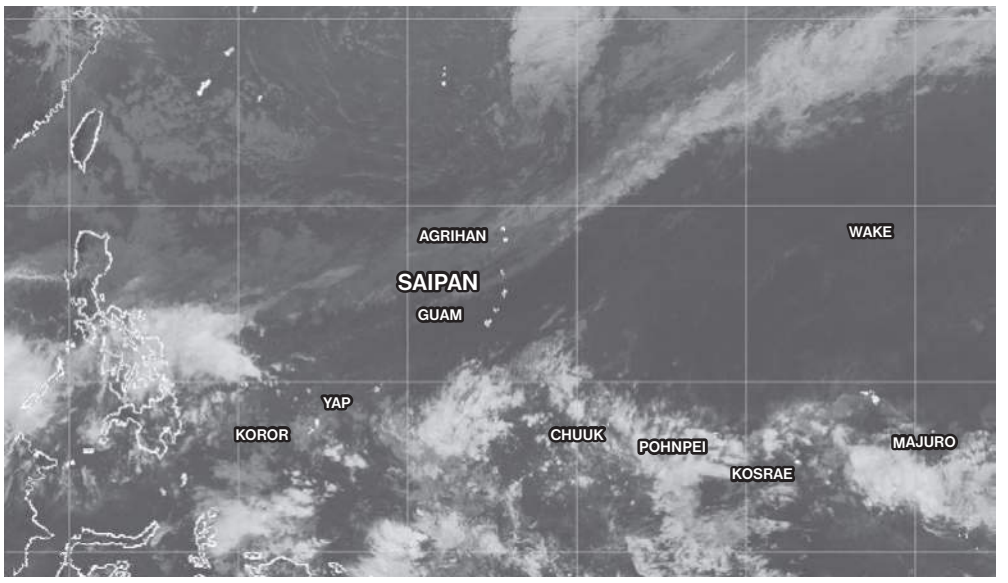
Glenn H. Manglona
Host, Marianas Agupa talk show

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY
Partly sunny with scattered showers. Northeast winds 15 to 20 mph	Mostly cloudy with scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Mostly cloudy. Isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with a 10 percent chance of showers.
84º 76º	86º 77	87º 76º	86º 75º	86º 75º

YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME: 7:06 AM, THURSDAY, MARCH 10, 2022

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Satellite imagery this morning shows mostly clear to partly cloudy skies across the Marianas, with the band of clouds associated with the shear line north of Alamagan. Ritidian and Ipan buoys are both reporting seas around 4 to 5 feet. The overnight altimetry pass just east of the Marinas shows seas between 4 to 5 feet and 5 to 7 feet to the north near the shear line.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

MICRONESIA	▲ ▼ °F	
Guam and Rota	Partly Cloudy	30 / 25 °F
Palau	Scattered Thunderstorms	29 / 25 °F
Yap	PM Thunderstorm	29 / 25 °F
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	29 / 26 °F
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	29 / 26 °F
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	29 / 26 °F
Majuro	Partly Cloudy	29 / 27 °F

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	06:27 AM	18:26 PM
Saturday	06:27 AM	18:26 PM
Sunday	06:26 AM	18:26 PM
Monday	06:25 AM	18:26 PM
Tuesday	06:25 AM	18:27 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	-	00:57 PM	12:20
Saturday	-	01:49 PM	13:10
Sunday	-	02:39 PM	14:02
Monday	-	03:28 PM	14:56
Tuesday	-	04:14 PM	15:50

AROUND THE GLOBE	▲ ▼ °F	
Auckland	Partly Cloudy	23 / 16 °F
Beijing	Partly Cloudy	23 / 16 °F
Hong Kong	Mostly Sunny	23 / 18 °F
Honolulu	Mostly Sunny	28 / 22 °F
London	Rain	11 / 8 °F
Los Angeles	Sunny	23 / 9 °F
Manila	Thunderstorms	32 / 25 °F
Melbourne	Partly Cloudy	20 / 12 °F
Miami	Partly Cloudy	27 / 23 °F
New York	Cloudy	11 / 2 °F
Osaka	Cloudy	18 / 8 °F
Paris	PM Rain	15 / 8 °F
Busan	Partly Cloudy	18 / 10 °F
Rome	Partly Cloudy	14 / 4 °F
Salem	PM Showers	18 / 3 °F
San Francisco	Sunny	16 / 5 °F
Seoul	Partly Cloudy	17 / 3 °F
Tokyo	Sunny	18 / 8 °F
Washington, DC	Partly Cloudy	16 / 8 °F

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY		FEET
03:55 AM	High Tide	1.37
08:15 AM	Low Tide	1:20
12:40 PM	High Tide	1.41
8:54 PM	Low Tide	0.13

STOP THE SPREAD

The Governor's COVID-19 Task Force and Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. continue to encourage residents within the Marianas to practice social distancing, which means avoiding close contact with people in order to avoid catching the virus yourself and to avoid passing it on to others.

■ Stay home as much as possible. Avoid unnecessary travel or public places.

■ Avoid social gatherings in groups of more than 10.

■ Choose drive-thru, take-out, or delivery options, or outdoor seating, if available, when dining in.

■ Send only one healthy adult from the household run necessary errands, such as getting groceries or picking up medications. Leave children, elderly, and other vulnerable people at home as much as possible. When returning home from an errand, wash your hands before doing anything else.

■ Older adults and people with chronic medical conditions are at higher risk of getting very sick from this illness. People at high risk should stay at home as much as possible.

■ Create a household plan of action, https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prepare/checklisthousehold-ready.html

■ Ensure a 30-day supply of all medicines.

Continue good hand hygiene

■ Wash your hands for at least 20 seconds with soap and water, avoid touching your face, cover coughs and sneezes with a tissue or your sleeve.

■ Use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer if soap and water are not readily available.

Know the signs and symptoms of COVID-19 and what to do if you become symptomatic

■ Stay home when you are sick and if you recently traveled to a place with COVID-19. Self-quarantine means:

• Choosing a room in your house that can be used to separate sick household members from others.

• Washing your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.

• Avoiding touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.

• Limiting visitors

CHCC appreciates the patience and understanding of the community at this time. To obtain general information about the CNMI COVID-19 response, contact the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force Hotline at 287-0046, 287-0489, 287-1089. These numbers are available Monday to Sunday, 7:30am - 4:30pm.

For medical information about COVID-19, reach out to the COVID-19 Infoline at the following numbers: 285-1672/1352. These numbers are available Monday to Friday, 7:30am - 4:30pm.

For mental health support and helpful tips during a crisis, call the Mental Health Support Line at 285-1856, 323-6560, 323-6561 These numbers are available Monday to Friday, 7:30am - 4:30 pm. For the 24/7 Disaster Distress Helpline, call SAMSHA at 1-800-985-5990.

For more information about DIY face coverings, visit https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/cloth-face-cover.html

For more information about CHCC programs, follow CHCC on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter at @cnmichcc, check out our website at www.chcc.gov.mp or call us at (670) 234-8950.

For more information on the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force, visit www.governor.gov.mpand, follow @GovernorCNMI on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter.

This health advisory may be found online at http://www.chcc.gov.mp/pressrelease.html and at www.governor.gov.mp/covid-19.

Rumor control

During crises like this, oftentimes the spread of misinformation is just as dangerous as the virus itself. The CNMI is reminded to only share official and verified notices, press releases, and advisories from the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force and CHCC.

Source: Office of the Governor

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E-mail: sales@saipantribune.com

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF FEBRUARY 14, 2022

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA117	7:20am	8:05am	2, 4, 6
UA117	9:50am	10:35am	1, 3, 5, 7

GUAM-MANILA (MNL)

PR 111	6:30am	8:20am	1, 3, 5
UA183	8:00pm	9:50pm	Daily

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

UA117/183	7:20am	9:50pm	2, 4, 6 via Guam
UA117/183	9:50am	9:50pm	1, 3, 5, 7 via Guam

SAIPAN-INCHEON (ICN)

7C3406	3:10PM	6:55PM	Every 4 days (Jan 29-Mar 30)
TW9308	3:30PM	7:20PM	4, 7
OZ6243	4:00PM	7:40PM	3, 6

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

BX621	3:10PM	6:30PM	7

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA116	5:30am	6:16am	2, 4, 6
UA116	8:00am	8:46am	7
UA174	8:00am	8:46am	1, 3, 5

MANILA (MNL)-GUAM

PR110	10:15pm	4:00am+1	2, 4, 7
UA184	10:40pm	4:30am+1	2, 5
UA184	10:55pm	4:45am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

UA184/116	10:40pm	6:16am+1	5 via Guam
UA184/174	10:40pm	8:46am+1	2 via Guam
UA184/116	10:55pm	6:16am+1	1, 3 via Guam
UA184/174	10:55pm	8:46am+1	4, 7 via Guam
UA184/116	10:55pm	8:46am+1	6 via Guam

INCHEON (ICN)-SAIPAN

7C3405	8:30AM	2:10PM	Every 4 days (Jan 29-Mar 30)
TW9307	9:00AM	Q2:30PM	4, 7
OZ6233	9:00AM	2:30PM	3, 6

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

BX622	8:00AM	1:10PM	7

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); UA United Airlines; PR, Philippine Airlines; TW, T'Way Air; OZ, Asiana Airlines; 7C, Jeju Air; BX, Air Busan • ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF MAY 18, 2021

SAIPAN TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1301	8:30AM	9:00AM	Daily
1302	11:00AM	11:30AM	Daily
1303	1:30PM	2:00PM	Tues/Wed/Thurs/Fri
1304	3:30PM	4:00PM	Daily

ROTA TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3101	9:30AM	10:00AM	Daily
3102	12:00AM	12:30AM	Daily
3103	1:30PM	3:00PM	Tues/Wed/Thurs/Fri
3104	4:30PM	5:00PM	Daily

ROTA TO GUAM

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3401	12:15	12:45	Temporarily Unavailable

GUAM TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
4301	13:00	13:30	Temporarily Unavailable

SAIPAN TO TINIAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1201	7:00	7:15	Temporarily Unavailable
1202	8:00	8:15	Daily
1203	9:00	9:15	Daily
1204	10:00	10:15	Daily
1205	11:00	11:15	Daily
1206	12:00	12:15	Temporarily Unavailable
1207	13:00	13:15	Temporarily Unavailable
1208	14:00	14:15	Daily
1209	15:00	15:15	Daily
1210	16:00	16:15	Daily
1211	17:00	17:15	Daily
1212	17:00	17:15	Temporarily Unavailable

TINIAN TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
2101	7:30	7:45	Temporarily Unavailable
2102	8:30	8:45	Daily
2103	9:30	9:45	Daily
2104	10:30	10:45	Daily
2105	11:30	11:45	Daily
2106	12:30	12:45	Temporarily Unavailable
2107	13:30	13:45	Temporarily Unavailable
2108	14:30	14:45	Daily
2109	15:30	15:45	Daily
2110	16:30	16:45	Daily
2111	17:30	17:45	Daily
2112	18:30	18:45	Temporarily Unavailable

House: Senate proposal for retiree bonuses still flawed

After Senate president Jude U. Hofschneider (R-Tinian) declined to appoint conferees to address the issues related to funding the retiree bonuses, the CNMI Senate is poised to act on legislation that will once again prolong the disconnect on Capitol Hill. Pre-filed by Hofschneider and co-authored by five others, Senate Joint Resolution 22-09 aims to approve "the governor's request to create a new program and business unit for retiree bonuses and to reprogram $2.6 million from within the Executive Branch for the payment of the retirees' $1,000.00 bonuses."

According to House Speaker Edmund Villagomez (Ind-Saipan), the latest Senate proposal once again misses the mark.

"I thank the senators for their removal of the 100% reprogramming authority, but their latest proposal still does not identify funding sources and still contains a fundamental flaw that prevents our retirees from getting their bonus," Villagomez said. "Even if it was proper to create a business unit via joint resolution, absent any funding in that business unit, nothing can be reprogrammed into it. The business unit is just that, a business unit that's inactive. At the end of the day House Bill 22-91 and House Bill 22-95 are the only acts of legislation that will allow any retiree bonus account to operate."

In February, House Ways and Means chair Rep. Donald Manglona (Ind-Saipan) prefiled bipartisan House Bill 22-95 that allocates the initial $1.3 million identified in H.B. 22-91 from provisions that were originally passed by both the House of Representatives and the Senate but line-item vetoed by the governor. The updated bonus also includes an additional $1.3 million re-appropriated from the governor's discretionary account, the Office of the Governor, and the Department of Finance to effectively double the previously proposed bonus for CNMI retirees, with $2.6 million specifically identified local funds. House vice speaker Rep. Blas Jonathan Attao (R-Saipan) pointed out that the unfunded business unit was not the only flaw in the latest Senate proposal.

From S.J.R. 22-09: "the Planning and Budgeting Act, specifically 1 CMC § 7402((d), provides for other reprogramming and states that "[t]he Governor may request the legislature for authority to reprogram funds other than such reprogramming as is authorized by subsections (a), (b) and (c) of this section in the following manner: (1) Such requests shall be submitted in writing by the governor or his authorized designee to the presiding officers of the House and Senate. Such request shall be subject to approval by joint resolution,"

Despite the specifically identified notification process detailed in the law, the proper notification of this request from Gov. Ralph DLG Torres was never made to the House of Representatives.

"We have two [chambers] in the Legislature. Senate President Jude Hofschneider is not the only presiding officer. We have Speaker Villagomez and the secretary of Finance's letter did not notify our speaker," Attao said.

Villagomez

CNMI retirees were initially promised bonus payments from the Executive Branch when Torres announced his plan for a Christmas bonus in his government-paid media availability interview last December 2021. The Planning and Budgeting Act, Title 1, section 7402 of the Commonwealth Code provides the governor 25% reprogramming authority.

In his briefing to the House Ways and Means Committee in February, Finance Secretary David Atalig confirmed the governor could have allocated the $500 retirement bonus back in December under the Planning and Budgeting Act. Title 1, section 7402 of the Commonwealth Code provides the governor 25% reprogramming authority, had he only approached the Legislature to establish a business unit. Atalig also confirmed the governor could have approved the $1,000 bonus because he had $2.6 million in reprogrammable funds available to him.

"The simple fact of this matter is Gov. Torres could have dealt with this months ago on his own under his reprogramming authority. Instead of giving the retirees their bonus, he's put the House and Senate at odds with each other to distract our community from his flagrant abuse of our limited local funds," Manglona said. "He's supposed to be the governor of our Commonwealth and leader of our people, but he continues to prove his only intention is to divide us while he continues to plunder what's left in our coffers." ***(PR)***

A longer version of this story is available at www. saipantribune.com

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY

MAIN OFFICE: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, 2ND FLOOR ARRIVAL BLDG.
PO BOX 501055•SAIPAN•MP•96950
PHONE: (1-670) 237-6500/1 | FAX: (1-670) 234-5962
E-MAIL ADDRESS: CPA.ADMIN@PTICOM.COM | WEBSITE: WWW.CNMIPORTS.COM

INVITATION FOR BIDS
SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
SOLID WASTE COLLECTION SERVICES

PROJECT NO. CPA-IFB-002-22

The Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA) is soliciting sealed bids for ***Solid Waste Collection Services*** for the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The ***bid package*** containing all the specifications, date of pre-bid meeting, and other requirements will be available at the Accounting Office, Commonwealth Ports Authority, Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, 2nd Floor of the Departure Building beginning ***March 02, 2022*** upon payment of ***$50.00*** in cash, cashiers check or credit card. All responses to this IFB shall take into account any costs that will be charged to the bidder awarded the contract for the project. Bidders shall also take into consideration all necessary badging requirements and fees for this project.

Bids will be received at the office of the Executive Director, 2nd Floor, Arrival Building, Saipan International Airport until ***2:00 PM LOCAL TIME, Friday, April 01, 2022.*** Bids are to be submitted in a sealed envelope clearly marked: ***"Bid for Solid Waste Collection Services at the Saipan International Airport, Project No. CPA-IFB-002-22".*** Bidders are to submit one (1) original and three (3) copies.

The Commonwealth Ports Authority reserves the right to reject any or all bids submitted for: (a) any of the reasons set forth in this Invitation For Bids; or (b) any of the reasons set forth in the CPA Procurement Rules and Regulations regarding bid rejection or cancellation; or (c) sufficient justification exists that awarding the project contract would not be in the best interest of CPA.

FOR THE COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY

CHRISTOPHER S. TENORIO
Executive Director

Date

Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas Islands
Department of Community and Cultural Affairs
Office of the Secretary

Caller Box 10007 Saipan, Mariana Islands 96950
Tel. (670) 664-2587 Fax (670) 664-2571

Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero
Secretary

Vivian Sablan
Administrator
Division of Youth Services

Rita Chong
Historic Preservation Officer
Historic Preservation Office

Parker Yobei
Executive Director
Commonwealth Council for Arts & Culture

Walter A. Manglona
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Office on Aging

Walter I. Macaranas
Administrator
Nutrition Assistance Program

Melvin Faisao
Executive Director
Chamorro / Carolinian Language Policy Commission

Maribel D. Loste, M.Ed
Program Administrator
Child Care and Development Fund (CCDBG)

Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP)

Gordon Salas
Childcare Licensing Program

Garapan Street Market

CHILD CARE AND DEVELOPMENT FUND (CCDF) PROGRAM
2022 SUMMER PROGRAM

ANNOUNCEMENT

The Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF) Program announces an opportunity for non-profit, community-based organizations and autonomous agencies to participate in the CCDF 2022 Summer Program Grant. This grant is open to organizations that offer Summer Program/Activities to all school-aged children between the ages 6 to 12 years old. For this grant, a total of 20 awards will be provided (Saipan-10, Tinian-5, Rota-5). CCDF has the right to award smaller grant awards as appropriate. CCDF Summer Program Grant Application Packets may be picked up at the Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF) Program Office, building No. 1347 Ascension Court, Capitol Hill, Saipan, MP 96950. Electronic copies may be requested by sending an email to ccdf.violdiaz65@gmail.com.

Interested applicants should submit one (1) original and another copy in a thumb drive of the completed application and requirements, sealed and marked: CCDF Summer Program Grant Application 2022. Attention: Viola Diaz, Administrative Specialist. All applications must be stamped and received no later than April 15, 2022 at 4:00 p.m. Incomplete applications will not be accepted and returned.

CCDF will only accept written inquiries regarding this grant opportunity and should be addressed to Viola Diaz on or before 4:00 p.m. March 31, 2022. Inquiries received after this date and time will not be entertained. All inquiries should be submitted via email at ccdf.violdiaz65@gmail.com with subject heading CCDF 2022 Summer Program. Responses will be provided via email and posted on www.cnmicclp.gov.mp

/s/ Maribel S. D. Loste
CCDF Administrator

02/28/2022
Date

/s/ Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero
DCCA Secretary

03/01/2022
Date

East-West Center launches Pacific-centric publication and website

ON THE NET

https://asiamattersforamerica.org/pacific

WASHINGTON, D.C.— The East-West Center has officially launched a premier publication and website on US-Pacific Islands relations, The Pacific Islands Matter for America/America Matters for the Pacific Islands.

The publication and accompanying data visualizations highlight the deep historical and contemporary significance of the relationship between the United States, Hawaii, and Pacific Islands countries and territories including the U.S. territories of American Samoa, Guam, and the Northern Mariana Islands, as well as the freely associated states of the Federated States of Micronesia, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, and the Republic of Palau. The publication also covers Fiji, Kiribati, Nauru, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, the Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu, and Vanuatu.

The publication and website (https://asiamattersforamerica.org/pacific) feature infographics, data, and analysis of economic, diplomatic, and cultural ties at the national, state, and local levels.

"The Pacific Islands Matter for America initiative creates space for the diverse voices of the Pacific by opening dialogue about how and why the people of the Pacific Islands and America matter to each other, advancing collective efforts to address climate, governance, education, economies, health, and sustainable development," said Suzanne Puanani Vares-Lum, president of the East- West Center. "The East-West Center Pacific Islands Development Program, which is Secretariat of the Pacific Islands Conference of Leaders, remains enthusiastic about new and exciting partnerships and initiatives, looking forward to serving as a bridge between the United States and Pacific Islands governments and peoples across the region. Our efforts propel us on a new journey toward exploring and discovering unchartered ideas, solutions, and possibilities."

A hybrid event to launch the new publication, jointly hosted by the House Pacific Islands Caucus and the EWC, was led by Dr. Satu Limaye, vice president of the East-West Center and director of the Center's Washington office, and concluded with an in-person reception on Capitol Hill.

Key remarks were offered by Vares-Lum and Interior deputy assistant secretary for Insular and International Affairs Keone Nakoa. The launch included remarks from prominent U.S. and Pacific Islands leaders and government officials, including co-chairs of the Congressional Pacific Islands Caucus: Rep. Ami Bera (CA-7); Rep. Don Young (AK-At Large); Rep. Steve Chabot (OH-1); Rep. Ed Case (HI-1), and Rep. Brad Sherman (CA-30).

Additional speakers included American Samoa Delegate Aumua Amata Radewagen, Australia Ambassador to the United States Arthur Sinodinos, New Zealand Ambassador to the United States Rosemary Banks, Palau Ambassador to the United States Hersey Kyota, and Fiji Ambassador to the United Nations Dr. Satyendra Prasad.

The event brought together members of Congress and their staff, U.S. and Pacific Islands government officials, the private sector, and regional experts to celebrate the partnerships between the United States and the Pacific Islands region.

"This product of one of our country's and world's premier Indo-Pacific institutions captures the critical importance of the Pacific Islands in this Pacific Century," said Case, who is co-chair of the bipartisan U.S. House Pacific Islands Caucus. "It will prove the go-to resource for stakeholders to focus on and appreciate the shared histories, cultures, values and interests with which we can and must forge a common path in the Indo- Pacific on regional security and stability, development, trade, climate change and other challenges of our times."

"The Pacific Islands Matter for America publication and website highlight the important connections and relationships that Hawaii and the rest of the United States have not only with the Insular Areas, but with all Pacific Islands," said Nakoa. "The deep, historic, and mutually-beneficial relationships that the United States have in the Pacific remain strong and the U.S. territories and the freely associated states harbor important strategic locations with significant ocean resources. Moreover, the Pacific Island peoples have and continue to contribute greatly to the fabric of this country. This publication aims to highlight some of the key aspects of the unique relationships the Pacific Islands and the United States have with one another."

Produced by the East-West Center with funding support from the U..S Department of the Interior's Office of Insular Affairs, the inaugural edition of The Pacific Islands Matter for America / America Matters for The Pacific Islands brings to light important facts and figures, including:

- The Pacific Islands region spans 15% of the world's surface area;
- Pacific Island economies have a combined GDP of $139 billion;
- U.S. relations with the Pacific span over 150 years;
- The United States partners with Pacific militaries and law enforcement;
- Under the Pacific Pledge, the U.S. government has committed about $350 million in assistance to Pacific Islands countries;
- The United States exports over $400 million in goods to Pacific Islands countries; ***(PR)***

A longer version of this story is available at www. saipantribune.com

COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION
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Fax: (670) 234-9451

PUBLIC NOTICE

THIS ADVERTISEMENT IS PAID FOR BY NMHC WITH CPD FUNDS.

AMENDED
NOTICE OF FUNDING AVAILABILITY OF COMMUNITY PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT FUNDS FOR PROGRAM YEAR 2022

The Government of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, through the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) is announcing the availability of an estimated $1,514,000.00 in Community Planning and Development (CPD) funds available from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. NMHC anticipates receiving an estimated amount of $970,416.00 in Community Development Block Grants (CDBG); $463,940.00 in Home Investment Partnerships (HOME); and, $79,644.00 in Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) funds for Program Year (PY) 2022.

The CDBG funds, authorized under Title I of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974, may be used for a wide range of community development activities to revitalize neighborhoods, provide affordable housing, expand economic opportunities, and improve community facilities and services. However, use of these funds must meet at least one of the national objectives which include: 1) to benefit low and moderate-income families; 2) to eliminate slum or blight conditions; or 3) to meet other urgent community development needs.

The CDBG program requires a grant recipient to certify that it will minimize displacement of persons as a result of activities assisted with CDBG funds. The CNMI government does not plan on undertaking any activity which will cause displacement of person. In the event of any unforeseen displacement resulting from any CDBG funded activity, the CNMI government will comply with the requirements of the Uniform Relocation Assistance and Real Property Acquisition Policies Act of 1970, its implementing regulation and applicable local law.

HOME funds may be used to create affordable housing through financing assistance, site acquisition or improvement, and rehabilitating existing residential dwellings as well as providing funds for new construction or purchase of a single family residential dwelling. Use of HOME funds must benefit low-income families.

ESG funds may be used to rehabilitate or convert to buildings into homeless shelters and for shelter operating expenses, supportive services and homeless prevention **and rapid re-housing** activities. Use of ESG funds must benefit the homeless.

Applications for the use of CPD funds are available for pick up at the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) located in Garapan, Saipan; San Jose Village, Tinian; and, Songsong Village, Rota, beginning February 03, 2022

You may also obtain the application online at www.nmhcgov.net in the section titled "Public Notice/Announcement" subsection "Community Planning Development"

Applications must be submitted to the NMHC Offices in Garapan, Saipan (Saipan Residents); San Jose, Tinian (Tinian Residents); and, Songsong Village, Rota (Rota Residents) by ***May 04, 2022, no later than 4:30 p.m. Applications submitted after May 04, 2022, will not be accepted.***

A briefing will be conducted for interested applicants and for those applicants who have picked up an application for the use of CPD funds. The briefing will address the program requirements and regulations concerning the usage of CPD funds.

The schedules for briefing are as follows:

March 14, 2022, 6:00 p.m. for the island of Saipan
~~***March 15, 2022, March 6:00 p.m. for the island of Tinian***~~
March 17, 2022, March 6:00 p.m. for the island of Tinian
~~***March 16, 2022, 6:00 p.m. for the island of Rota***~~
March 21, 2022, 6:00 p.m. for the island of Rota

We are encouraging all non-profit, for profit, and government service providers who are providing services to people with disabilities, homeless individuals, and emergency shelter administrators and operators to attend this briefing.

For residents living on the island of Saipan, the briefing will held at the NMHC Office in Garapan; Residents living on the island of Tinian, the briefing will be held at the NMHC Office in San Jose Village; and Residents living on the island of Rota, the briefing will be held at the Rota Mayor's Office Conference Room in Tatachog.

Accommodations for disabled individuals or other non-English speaking individuals who wish to attend the briefing are available upon request by giving at least 24 hours notice prior to the meeting so that such needs can be arranged and provided. Additional inquiries, concerning the CPD program, may be directed to Ms. Zenie P. Mafnas, Deputy Corporate Director or Ms. Tricia Tenorio, Planner at 234-6866 or 234-9447.

/s/
Jesse S. Palacios
Corporate Director

MICRONESIAN LEGAL SERVICES CORPORATION

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

Legal Secretary

Saipan
March 2022

Micronesian Legal Services Corporation (MLSC) is a nonprofit organization whose mission is to increase access to justice in Micronesia. We provide free legal services to people of limited financial means in the Republic of the Marshall Islands, the Federated States of Micronesia, the Republic of Palau, on Guam, and in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

MLSC is seeking applications for the position of **Legal Secretary** in our office on Saipan.

Qualifications:
- At least two years secretarial experience
- Fluency in English, and preferably any relevant language (Chamorro, Carolinian, Tagalog, etc.)
- An understanding of and desire to learn more about basic computer operation including use of printers, copiers, office phone systems, and programs including word processing, database management, and electronic communications.

Duties Include:
- Reception for persons walking and calling in to the office
- Entering information into computerized database, and using database to manage cases and work.
- Maintaining files, handling mail, translating and interpreting
- Writing letters, working with other staff to prepare legal and other documents, and using computers, printers, other office equipment
- Other duties as assigned.

Compensation and Benefits:
Salary from $24,180 to $35,520, depending on experience. Benefits include health insurance, annual leave, sick leave, and employer contribution to a 401(k) program.

To apply:

For more information or to apply for the job, please stop into our office in Chalan Piao, or e-mail Directing Attorney Jane Mack at janemack@mlscnet.org. For more information, telephone 670-234-7729.

Application deadline: open until filled.

Business

House approves ban on Russian oil to US, bolstering Biden

WASHINGTON (AP)—The House overwhelmingly approved legislation Wednesday night that would ban Russian oil imports to the United States, an effort to put into law the restrictions announced by President Joe Biden in response to the escalating war in Ukraine.

Going further than Biden's import ban on Russian oil, the bill making its way through Congress would also encourage a review of Russia's status in the World Trade Organization and signal U.S. support for sanctions on Russian officials over human rights violations, as the U.S. works to economically isolate the regime.

Lawmakers in both parties have been eager to act, willing to risk higher gas prices at home in order to support Ukraine with a show of U.S. bipartisanship. The legislation was approved Wednesday, 414-17, and now goes to the Senate.

Rep. Lloyd Doggett, D-Texas, who helped draft the bill, acknowledged it may cost more to fill up tanks at home to stop Russian President Vladimir Putin's tanks abroad.

"It is one way to demonstrate our solidarity," Doggett said during the debate.

The remarkable bipartisan resolve in Congress to deter Russia and help Ukraine has acted as an accelerant on the White House's own strategy, pushing the Biden administration to move more quickly than it would have—a rare example of the legislative branch muscling its way into foreign policy.

Just days ago, the Biden administration was reluctant to ban Russian oil imports, worried about reducing the global energy supply and causing spikes in gas prices at a time when U.S. households already face record-setting inflation.

"We've been talking about doing the Russian (energy) ban for a while, and we're so pleased the president has done that," House Speaker Nancy Pelosi said ahead of the vote.

While Russian oil makes up only a small part of U.S. imports, it carries a high price for lawmakers in Congress who viewed the ban as a moral test in blocking an economic lifeline for Putin's regime. Lawmakers appeared especially moved by Ukrainian President Volodymr Zelenskyy's "desperate plea" for help during a weekend video call with lawmakers.

"We stand with the people of Ukraine, Democrats and Republicans alike," said Rep. Lloyd Smucker, R-Pa.

Trump a pariah? New $100 million bank loan suggests not

NEW YORK (AP)—A bank's decision to loan Donald Trump's company $100 million is the latest evidence the former president might survive fraud investigations and a business-world backlash over his efforts to stay in office after losing the 2020 election.

San Diego-based Axos Bank finalized the loan with the Trump Organization on Feb. 17, according to documents filed with the city Tuesday.

That's just three days after public revelations that the Republican's longtime accountants had disavowed a decade's worth of his financial statements amid allegations by New York's attorney general that they had exaggerated his wealth.

The Axos loan is being used to pay back an old loan backed by commercial space at Trump Tower that was coming due in September.

A year ago, it looked possible that Trump might become a pariah after his supporters stormed the U.S. Capitol in an attempt to stop a vote certifying President Joe Biden's election win. Banks, insurers and other business partners all cut ties following the riot.

Last year, the Trump Organization was indicted in New York on charges it helped executives evade taxes. And for two years, the company has been the subject of civil and criminal investigations by New York Attorney General Letitia James and the Manhattan district attorney.

But in the fall, Trump struck a deal to sell his Washington hotel for far more than expected. And a partnership he's involved with that owns two office towers recently took out new loans for far more than needed to pay off old ones coming due.

"He bounces back," says Barbara Res, a former Trump Organization executive who is not a fan and even urged people not to vote for him.

"If a guy brings me a property with good cash flow, a good location and good tenants, why do I care what his politics are?" says Mike Offit, a former Deutsche Bank lender to Trump who now consults on

Did Amazon violate federal laws? Lawmakers ask for DOJ probe

WASHINGTON (AP)—Lawmakers followed through Wednesday on their threat to seek a criminal investigation of Amazon, asking the Justice Department to investigate whether the tech giant and senior executives obstructed Congress or violated other federal laws in testimony on its competition practices.

The House Judiciary Committee escalated the bipartisan battle against the world's biggest online retailer with a letter to Attorney General Merrick Garland referring the case for a criminal inquiry.

Amazon engaged in misleading conduct that appeared designed to "influence, obstruct or impede" the antitrust subcommittee's 2019-20 investigation into the market dominance of Big Tech, the letter says.

As an example, it cited testimony by a senior Amazon official maintaining that the company doesn't use the data it collects on third-party merchants on its platform to compete with them, and doesn't list its own products in customer search results before those of third parties. Those assertions have been contradicted by credible news reports, the letter says.

News reports have detailed Amazon's alleged practice of undercutting the businesses that sell on its platform by making "knock-offs," or very similar products, and boosting their presence on the site.

"Amazon attempted to clean up the inaccurate testimony through ever-shifting explanations of its internal policies and denials of the investigative reports," the lawmakers said. "The committee uncovered evidence from former Amazon employees, and former and current sellers, that corroborated the reports' claims."

"After Amazon was caught in a lie and repeated misrepresentations, it stonewalled the committee's efforts to uncover the truth," the letter says. It was signed by Judiciary Committee Chairman Jerrold Nadler, D-N.Y., and the Democratic and Republican leaders of the antitrust subcommittee.

NOTICE OF INTENT TO FILE DISSOLUTION

Please take notice that Alliance Ent. Inc. (the corporation) intends to file articles of dissolution with the CNMI Registrar of Corporations anytime after this notice is made.

Anyone with a claim against the corporation is requested to submit it in accordance with the following:

1. The claim shall be made in writing and shall state the name of the claimant, the amount of the claim, the factual basis for the claim, and the name, mailing address, email address, and telephone number of the person who may be contacted by the corporation with respect to the claim.
2. The claim may be sent to: P.O. Box 501803, Saipan MP 96950.
3. A claim against the corporation will be barred unless a processing to enforce the claim is commenced within five years after the publication of the notice.

Alliance Ent. Inc
P.O. Box 501803, Saipan MP 96950
670-588-2996

Faith, Hope and KARIDAT

A Northern Mariana Islands Social Service
RE-ANNOUNCEMENT
JOB VACANCY

ONE (1) SHELTER WORKER

For more information, job description and application can be obtained from Karidat Main Office at Sister Remedios Community Center Chalan Kanoa.

DOCUMENTS REQUIRED: Complete application form, copy of diploma, resume, police clearane valid within 6 months and a copy of valid CNMI driver's license.

NO PHONE INQUIRIES PLEASE.
CLOSING DATE: FRIDAY, MARCH 11, 2022 AT 4:00PM

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- **Friday, March 18th** 9:00am - 4:00pm

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Board Certified in Hearing Instrument Sciences
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Nation

United House OKs $13.6B for Ukraine in huge spending bill

WASHINGTON (AP)—The House approved a massive spending bill Wednesday night that would rush $13.6 billion in U.S. aid to battered Ukraine and its European allies, after top Democrats were forced to abruptly drop their plan to include fresh funds to battle COVID-19.

Passage of the Ukraine aid and the $1.5 trillion government-wide legislation that carried it let both parties lay claim to election-year victories for their priorities. Democrats won treasured domestic initiatives, Republicans achieved defense boosts, and both got their imprint on funds to counter Russia's brutal invasion of its western neighbor. Senate approval was assured by week's end or perhaps slightly longer.

Hours earlier, House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif., had to abandon the bill's $15.6 billion for combating the pandemic, a decision she called "heartbreaking" and that spelled defeat for a top priority of President Joe Biden and party leaders. The money was mostly to bolster U.S. supplies of vaccines, treatments and tests and battle the disease around the world, but a Democratic revolt over Republican-demanded state aid cuts to cover the new initiatives' costs forced her to scrap that spending.

"We've got a war going on in Ukraine," Pelosi told reporters, explaining the urgency Democrats felt in making concessions in bargaining with Republicans. "We have important work that we're doing here." She said with her party in the 50-50 Senate needing at least 10 GOP votes to pass legislation, Democrats "are going to have to know there has to be compromise."

The House approved the overall bill in two separate votes. The measure's security programs were overwhelmingly approved by 361-69, the rest by 260-171, with most Republicans opposed.

The Ukraine aid included $6.5 billion for the U.S. costs of sending troops and weapons to Eastern Europe and equipping allied forces there in response to Russian President Vladimir Putin's invasion and repeated, bellicose threats. There was another $6.8 billion to care for refugees and provide economic aid to allies, and more to help federal agencies enforce economic sanctions against Russia and protect against cyber threats at home.

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Tel: (670) 235-8060; Fax: (670) 235-8070
Email: mnevangelista8@gmail.com
Attorney for Plaintiff

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT FOR THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

BANK OF SAIPAN, Plaintiff, -v- ORRIN O. PHARMIN and LAURA TAMAN OGUMORO, Defendants.	:	Civil Action No. 18-0109 NOTICE OF AUCTION ON THE MORTGAGED PROPERTY

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that, pursuant to an Order issued by the Court in this matter on October 18, 2021, the court-approved auctioneer, Mr. Richard S. Villagomez, will sell at public auction, to the highest bidder, on the terms and conditions set forth hereinbelow, all of the right, title, and interest of Defendants in and to the following property:

Legal description of the property:
Lot 002 G 134, Kagman, Saipan, as more particularly described on Drawing/Cadastral Plat No. 002 G 04, the original of which was recorded on May 14, 1990, under File No. 90-1901 at the Commonwealth Recorder's, Saipan.

Date, Time, and Place of Sale:
The sale will be held on the 8th day of April, 2022 at 11:00 a.m., at the Law Offices of Michael N. Evangelista, LLC, D'Torres Building, Garapan, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands.
The sale will be open to the general public.

Terms and Condition of Sale:
The Terms and Conditions of Sale may be obtained from the Law Offices of Michael N. Evangelista, LLC, D'Torres Building, Garapan, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands, either prior to or at the sale. These terms and conditions shall govern the conduct of the sale.

DATED this 3rd day of March, 2022.

LAW OFFICES OF MICHAEL NORITA EVANGELISTA, LLC.
/s/ Michael N. Evangelista, Esq. (Bar No. 0364)
Attorney for Plaintiff

ACROSS THE NATION

Police: Car in Nevada crash that killed 9 was going 103 mph

LAS VEGAS (AP)—A police report says a 59-year-old motorist's sports car was "at full acceleration," going more than 100 mph into a busy crossroads in North Las Vegas in January, causing a multi-vehicle wreck that killed him, his passenger and seven members of a family in a minivan. The report made public Wednesday said a vehicle computer showed Gary Dean Robinson's maroon Dodge Challenger sped up from 90 mph (145 kph) to 103 mph (166 kph) five seconds before entering the intersection against a red traffic signal. Chain-reaction crashes also involved a Ford Fusion in which a 31-year-old woman was critically injured.

Jussie Smollett to learn fate in staged attack conviction

CHICAGO (AP)—Actor Jussie Smollett is scheduled to return to court on Thursday, where he will learn if a judge will order him locked up for his conviction of lying to police about a racist and homophobic attack that he orchestrated himself or allow him to remain free. Smollett, who is expected to continue to deny his role in the staged attack in January 2019, faces up to three years in prison for each of the five felony counts of disorderly conduct—the charge filed for lying to police—of which he was convicted. He was acquitted on a sixth count. But because Smollett does not have an extensive criminal history and the conviction is for a low-level nonviolent crime, experts do not expect that he will be sent to prison. The actor could be ordered to serve up to a year in county jail or, if the judge chooses, be placed on probation and ordered to perform some kind of community service.

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY

Main Office: FRANCISCO C. ADA/SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
P.O. BOX 501055, SAIPAN MP 96950-1055
Phone: (670) 237-6500/1 • Fax: (670) 234-5962
Website: www.cnmiports.com

INVITATION FOR BID

AIR CONDITIONING PREVENTIVE MAINTENANCE SERVICE AND REPAIRS FRANCISCO C. ADA/SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT AND PORT OF SAIPAN PROJECT NO. CPA-IFB-003-22

The Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA) is soliciting sealed bids for Commercial Air-Conditioning Units Preventive Maintenance Service and Repairs at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport and Port of Saipan. Bidders shall take into consideration all charges associated with this procurement before finalizing their bid price.

The Bid Package is available for pick-up beginning March 11, 2022, at the CPA Accounting Office, 2nd Floor, Departure Terminal Building, Saipan International Airport, upon a non-refundable payment of $100.00 in cash, cashier's check, or by credit cards. Bidders must submit all required documents listed in the Bid Package. All responses to this IFB shall take into account any and/or all costs that will be charged the bidder awarded for this project. Bidders shall also take into consideration all necessary badging requirements and fees for this project.

A pre-bid conference will be held at 10:00 a.m., March 29, 2022 at the CPA Conference Room, 2nd Floor, Departure Terminal Building. The purpose of this conference is to allow potential bidders an opportunity to present questions and obtain clarification relative to any facet of this solicitation. While attendance at this conference will not be a prerequisite to submitting bid, bidders who intend to submit a bid are encouraged to attend. Any site visit may be coordinated with Dennis Cruz and Sandy Camacho of the CPA by calling telephone numbers (670)237-6596-(Dennis) and (670)237-6507-(Sandy). Questions regarding this procurement should be submitted in writing through the CPA Procurement Officer via email at atudela@cnmiports.com on or before close of business, April 05, 2022.

All bids shall be sealed and marked on the cover package outside as follows: "Bid for Air-Conditioning Preventive Maintenance Service and Repairs, Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport & Port of Saipan/IFB-003-22". One (1) original and two (2) copies of the bid must be submitted no later than 2:00 p.m. Local Time, April 11, 2022, to the Office of the Executive Director at the Saipan International Airport. Bids will be opened at 2:30 p.m., April 11, 2022 and publicly announced at the CPA Procurement Office, 2nd Floor, Departure Terminal Building, Saipan International Airport. Bidders are welcome to attend the bid opening. Bids submitted by facsimile (fax) transmission will not be considered. Any bids received after the bid submittal deadline shall be rejected and returned to the bidder unopened.

The Commonwealth Ports Authority reserves the right to reject any or all bids submitted for; (a) any of the reasons set forth in this Invitation for Bids; (b) any of the reasons set forth in the CPA Procurement Rules and Regulations regarding bid rejection or cancellation; or (c) sufficient justification exists that awarding the bid would not be in the best interest of CPA. The CPA further reserves the right to waive any defects in said bids if in its sole opinion to do so would not be in CPA's best interest.

All bids shall become the property of the Commonwealth Ports Authority. This Invitation for Bid shall be executed as per the CPA Procurement Regulations.

FOR THE COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY

March 07, 2022

/s/ CHRISTOPHER S. TENORIO
Executive Director

DATE

NORTHERN MARIANAS COLLEGE

Procurement and Property Management
P.O. Box 501250 • Saipan, MP 96950 U.S.A.
Phone: (670) 234-5498 Ext. 6824 I www.marianas.edu

REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATION STATEMENTS
NMCRQS 22-001

ARCHITECTURAL & ENGINEERING SERVICES
PLANNING, DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES PROJECT

Northern Marianas College (The College) is soliciting for interested firms "Qualification Statements" for Architectural/Engineering Services for the Center for Research Extension and Development project.

The request for "Statement of Qualification (RQS)" packets are available at NMC, Procurement Office commencing 10:00am Friday, February 25, 2022 or Electronic packet email request to anita.camacho@marianas.edu.

Pre-submittal conference is schedule for 09:00am-10:00am, March 07, 2022 CNMI Via Zoom.

Attendance is not mandatory but is strongly recommended.

Qualification Statements Submissions
Due date and time: 10:00am, March 28, 2022 (CNMI)
Procurement & Property Management Office, Bldg. P, As Terlaje Campus

Paid for by 100% federal funds through the Department of Commerce Economic Development Administration (EDA) Grant.

This Request for Statement of Qualification under Article 7, "Local Business Preference" as amended by Public Law 15-95 and as further amended by Public Law 15-118, is not available for this procurement.

This solicitation does not constitute an offer and does not obligate the College in any way. The College reserves the right to reject any and/or all Qualification Statements for any reason and waive any defect in said Qualification Statements, or cancel in part or its entirety this Request for Qualification Statements, if it deems, in its sole discretion, it is in the best interest of the College.

Approved by:

/s/ Anita Camacho
Procurement & Property Manager

ROBERT TENORIO TORRES F0197
ATTORNEY AT LAW
P.O. Box 503758 CK, Saipan, MP 96950
Tel. (670) 234-7859 | Fax. (670) 234-5749
E mail: robert.torres@rttlawgroup.com

Attorney for Petitioner David Taitano Camacho

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT FOR THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF ANTONIO MUNA CAMACHO Decedent.	:	Civil Action No. 22-0017 NOTICE OF HEARING AND NOTICE TO CREDITORS DATE: MARCH 17, 2022 TIME: 10:00 A.M. JUDGE: CAMACHO

TO: THE GENERAL PUBLIC, ANY HEIRS, CLAIMANTS, OR CREDITORS OF THE LATE ANTONIO MUNA CAMACHO HIS ESTATE:
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that David Taitano Camacho has petitioned the Superior Court of Northern Marianas Islands to issue Letters of Administration for the Estate of Antonio Muna Camacho, the deceased. The attorney for Petitioner is Robert T. Torres, Attorney at Law, whose address is Plate Drive, Whispering Palms (Chalan Kiya) P.O. Box 503758, Saipan, MP 96950.

The hearing on the Petition is scheduled to be heard on the date at the time set forth above at the Superior Court of the Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas Islands. All interested persons and entities should appear at the hearing.

Any and all persons, creditors, or entities having claims against the deceased or his Estate are hereby required by the law to file their claims with the Clerk of Court within sixty (60) days of this publication or claim(s) will be baited. A copy of your claims should also be sent to ROBERT T. TORRES, Attorney at Law, at the address herein-above indicated.

Respectfully submitted this 11th day of February 2022.

/s/_____
CLERK OF COURT/SEPUTY CLERK

Asia

Ex-prosecutor, foreign policy neophyte wins S. Korea polls

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—Yoon Suk Yeol, a conservative former top prosecutor and foreign policy neophyte, was elected South Korea's president in a win expected to herald a drive to seek a stronger alliance with the United States and take a tougher line on North Korea.

With over 99% of the votes counted early Thursday, Yoon from the main opposition People Power Party had 48.6% against ruling liberal Democratic Party candidate Lee Jae-myung's 47.8%. It was South Korea's most closely fought presidential election.

A crowd of supporters gathered near Yoon's house and his party's campaign office, shouting his name in celebration.

"This is the victory of our great people," Yoon said in his victory speech at the party office. "I would respect our constitution and parliament and work together with the opposition party to serve our people properly."

Yoon is to take office in May and serve a single five-year term as leader of the world's 10th largest economy.

Yoon Suk Yeol, the presidential candidate of the main opposition People Power Party, who was elected South Korea's new president on Thursday, holds bouquets as he is congratulated by party's members and lawmakers at the National Assembly in Seoul, South Korea, Thursday, March 10, 2022. AP

Earlier, Lee, a former governor of Gyeonggi province, conceded his defeat at his party headquarters.

"I did my best but wasn't able to live up to expectations," a glum Lee said. "I congratulate candidate Yoon Suk Yeol. I sincerely ask the president-elect to overcome division and conflicts and open a new era of unity and harmony."

Wednesday's election boiled down to a two-way showdown between Yoon and Lee, who spent months slamming, mocking and demonizing each other in one of the most bitter political campaigns in recent memory. Their fighting aggravated already severe domestic divisions and stoked speculation the losing candidate might face criminal probes over scandals that they've been linked to.

World

UKRAINE WAR AT 2-WEEK MARK:
Russians slowed but not stopped

WASHINGTON (AP)—Two weeks into its war in Ukraine, Russia has achieved less and struggled more than anticipated at the outset of the biggest land conflict in Europe since World War II. But the invading force of more than 150,000 troops retains large and possibly decisive advantages in firepower as they bear down on key cities.

Moscow's main objective—toppling the Kyiv government and replacing it with Kremlin-friendly leadership—remains elusive, and its overall offensive has been slowed by an array of failings, including a lack of coordination between air and ground forces and an inability to fully dominate Ukraine's skies.

The Pentagon on Wednesday estimated that Russia retains about 90% of the combat power it has deployed in Ukraine, accounting for weapons and vehicles destroyed or made inoperable as well as troops killed and wounded. Those losses, while modest at first glance, are significant for two weeks of fighting.

Two weeks of war have created a humanitarian crisis in Ukraine that has accelerated in recent days. The United Nations estimates that 2 million Ukrainians have fled their country, and the number is expected to grow.

Russia likely has had between 2,000 and 4,000 troops killed thus far, said Lt. Gen. Scott Berrier, director of the Defense Intelligence Agency, adding that his agency has "low confidence" in its estimate.

With no sign of Russian President Vladimir Putin backing away, the war appears likely to drag on. CIA Director William Burns told a congressional panel Tuesday that Putin is frustrated and likely to "double down" in Ukraine. He said that could mean "an ugly next few weeks" as the fighting intensifies.

Whether and how the conflict might expand is a major concern in the West, not least because Putin has said he will not tolerate unlimited U.S. or NATO arms supplies to Ukraine. NATO in turn has warned against the Russian conflict spilling over Ukraine's border into a NATO country like Poland or Romania. Poland on Tuesday offered to transfer MiG-29 fighter jets to U.S. control at an air base in Germany, presumably leaving to Washington the question of whether and how to get the planes to Ukraine. The Pentagon quickly shot down the idea, calling it untenable in light of Ukraine's contested airspace, and on Wednesday the Pentagon said it had moved two U.S. Army Patriot air defense units from Germany to Poland to bolster defenses against potential Russian threats to a NATO ally.

Brilliant Star School

Global Understanding • Service to Humanity • Exemplary Character • Creative Minds

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

POSITION/TITLE: Principal/Head of School
OPENING DATE: March 1, 2022
SUBMISSION DEADLINE: Until Filled

NATURE OF WORK:
The primary role of the Principal is to articulate the vision and mission of the school, provide academic leadership, take leadership in the admissions and recruitment process, build community among students and families: recruit and coach faculty members and staff, oversee the financial health of the school, serve as the school's primary spokesperson to the larger community, and lead the process of internal self-evaluation and long-term planning. The activities of the Principal are guided by the Board of Trustees.

QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS:
Graduation from U.S. accredited college or university with a Bachelor's or Master's degree in Education or related field, plus at least two years of teaching experience and two years of supervisory experience in a similar setting. A background in Montessori teaching or knowledge thereof is a plus.

SALARY/BENEFITS:
Salary commensurate with qualifications and experience, plus excellent benefits (Including 401K benefits, Health insurance, Paid Leave/Holidays.

ADDITIONAL QUALIFICATIONS:
- Good interpersonal and communication skills. Communicate effectively both orally and in writing, including giving and receiving feedback.
- Awareness of and sensitivity to cultural issues and local community practices.
- Ability to work as part of a team
- Ability to motivate others to reach their fullest potential.
- Excellent Office Automation Skills (Microsoft Word, Excel, Outlook, PowerPoint, Social Media, and Google Tools.
- Excellent Record Keeping Skills/Filing & Document Management.
- Ability to adapt to changing situations.

Interested Applicants may obtain full job description and employment application form at the Brilliant Star office on Navy Hill or via email to Steven Beyer at principal@brilliantstar.org. Completed application forms and required documents may be submitted at the Brilliant Star office or via email at principal@brilliantstar.org. The Brilliant Star office can be reached for inquires at (670) 323-7827

APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS:
1. Completed Brilliant Star Employment Application form
2. Cover Letter and Resume
3. Copy of Diploma

Other documents may be requested and must be submitted to be considered for this position. Your

CNMI DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT SERVICES
CNMI GOVERNMENT

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
RFP NO.: RFP22-OPD-42200085

SUBMISSION DATE: April 11, 2022 TIME: 09:00 A.M.

"REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL OF ARCHITECT AND/ OR ENGINEERING SERVICES –CULTURAL EVENT CENTER FACILITIES DEVELOPMENT PROJECT"

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT SERVICES, LOCATED AT THE HORIGUCHI BLDG., GROUND FLOOR, 123 KOPPA DI ORU & BEACH ROAD, GARAPAN, SAIPAN DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

****FOR YOUR SAFETY & OURS: ALL INTERESTED INDIVIDUALS ARE REQUIRED TO USE A FACE MASK & ARE REQUIRED TO REGISTER UPON ENTRY****

QUESTIONS REGARDING THIS ITB MAY BE MADE IN ANY MODE OF WRITTEN COMMUNICATION TO **MR. KODEP OGUMORO-ULUDONG,** VIA E-MAIL AT kodep.uludong@opd.gov.mp **NO LATER THAN CLOSE OF BUSINESS DAY, MARCH 25, 2022.** ALL QUESTIONS & ANSWERS SHALL BE SHARED WITH ALL PROPECTIVE PROPOSERS.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ A. KODEP OGUMORO-ULUDONG
DIRECTOR, OPD

/S/ FRANCISCO C. AGUON
ACTING DIRECTOR, PS

Off the Wall

Boy rescued after getting stuck in tree rescuing cat

AP

This photo provided by the Indianapolis Fire Department shows a 17-year-old boy high up in a tree that firefighters helped bring do wn on Saturday, March 5, 2022 at Holliday Park in Indianapolis.

INDIANAPOLIS (AP)—A teenager who scaled a tree at an Indianapolis park to rescue a cat he spotted high up in the branches ended up stuck himself and in need of a rescue, officials said.

The 17-year-old boy was at Holliday Park on Indianapolis' north side Saturday afternoon when he saw the cat and decided to rescue it by climbing 35 feet (10.7 meters) into the tree, the Indianapolis Fire Department said in a news release.

The teen, identified in the release only as "Owen," told firefighters "he was trying to do a good deed and bring the cat to safety," wrote Rita Reith, battalion chief and the department's spokeswoman.

"While Owen had no trouble climbing up the tree—his positioning did not allow the same ease for getting down," she added.

Firefighting crews were called to the park and they used a rope system to lower the boy safely to the ground about two hours later. The department also released video of the rescue.

The teen was checked out by medics, found to have only a few scrapes, and was released to his parents, although the cat remained in the tree.

"The cat seemed to enjoy the commotion but made no effort to climb down the tree," Reith wrote.

Reith said Monday that a 21-year-old woman who was the cat's owner ended up hiring a private company to retrieve the feline.

OFFBEAT BRIEFS

Nonprofit: Bag of animal heads linked to sacrifice ritual?

EAST GREENWICH, R.I. (AP)—Several animal heads found in a plastic bag in East Greenwich last month appear to be related to some sort of religious animal sacrifice ritual, the Rhode Island Society for the Prevention of Cruelty said Tuesday. The bag, originally brought to the attention of police on Feb. 25 near a boat launch, contained a calf's head, several rooster heads, a lamb head, and a kid goat head, the animal welfare group said in a statement. "It is believed that animal remains that were found were from animals that were sacrificed as part of a religious ritual," the nonprofit organization said. The bag also contained grains and colored cloth material "associated with previous animal sacrifice investigations," and two hand-drawn pictures, the organization said. One looked like a letter D with an arrow through it and one looked like a smiling theater mask. The RISPCA asked anyone with information about the bag or the significance of the drawings to contact their investigators.

Ice-fishing shanty blown across Michigan bay; anglers safe

MCKINLEY TOWNSHIP, Mich. (AP)—Three anglers are safe after a homemade ice-fishing shanty was blown about a mile (1.6 kilometers) across a bay in Michigan by winds that neared 50 mph (80 kph), authorities said. A person onshore called Huron County dispatchers about 8 a.m. Sunday after seeing someone struggling with the shanty as it was being blown across the ice on Saginaw Bay off McKinley Township, Huron County Sheriff Kelly Hanson said in a news release. The shanty, which had been occupied by three men, was about 1.5 miles (2.4 kilometers) offshore when deputies arrived. Hanson said a fire department airboat was taken to the site for a rescue, but the three men eventually were able to make it across the ice to shore on their own. The men refused medical treatment. They told deputies that they spent Saturday night on the ice in the shanty and were aware of an approaching storm, but apparently took for granted the power of the winds, Hanson said. The men were making arrangements to return to shore when wind gusts began to push the shanty. McKinley Township is located in Michigan's Thumb region, about 120 miles (193 kilometers) north of Detroit.

Border authorities find 52 reptiles hidden in man's clothing

SAN DIEGO (AP)—A man who tried to slither past U.S. border agents in California had 52 lizards and snakes hidden in his clothing, authorities said Tuesday. The man was driving a truck when he arrived at the San Ysidro border crossing with Mexico on Feb. 25 and was pulled out for additional inspection, U.S. Customs and Border Protection said in a statement. Agents found 52 live reptiles tied up in small bags "which were concealed in the man's jacket, pants pockets, and groin area," the statement said. Nine snakes and 43 horned lizards were seized. Some of the species are considered endangered, authorities said. "Smugglers will try every possible way to try and get their product, or in this case live reptiles, across the border," said Sidney Aki, Customs and Border Protection director of field operations in San Diego. "In this occasion, the smuggler attempted to deceive CBP officers in order to bring these animals into the US, without taking care for the health and safety of the animals." The man, a 30-year-old U.S. citizen, was arrested.

Science & Technology

Octopus ancestor lived before era of dinosaurs, study shows

WASHINGTON (AP)—Scientists have found the oldest known ancestor of octopuses—an approximately 330 million-year-old fossil unearthed in Montana.

The researchers concluded the ancient creature lived millions of years earlier than previously believed, meaning that octopuses originated before the era of dinosaurs.

The 4.7-inch (12-centimeter) fossil has 10 limbs—modern octopuses have eight—each with two rows of suckers. It probably lived in a shallow, tropical ocean bay.

"It's very rare to find soft tissue fossils, except in a few places," said Mike Vecchione, a Smithsonian National Museum of Natural History zoologist who was not involved in the study. "This is a very exciting finding. It pushes back the ancestry much farther than previously known."

The specimen was discovered in Montana's Bear Gulch limestone formation and donated to the Royal Ontario Museum in Canada in 1988.

For decades, the fossil sat overlooked in a drawer while scientists studied fossil sharks and other finds from the site. But then paleontologists noticed the 10 tiny limbs encased in limestone. The well-preserved fossil also "shows some evidence of an ink sac," probably used to squirt out a dark liquid cloak to help to evade predators, just like modern octopuses, said Christopher Whalen, an American Museum of Natural History paleontologist and co-author of the study published Tuesday in the journal Nature Communications.

The creature, a vampyropod, was likely the ancestor of both modern octopuses and vampire squid, a confusingly named marine critter that's much closer to an octopus than a squid. Previously, the "oldest known definitive" vampyropod was from around 240 million years ago, the authors said.

The scientists named the fossil Syllipsimopodi bideni, after President Joe Biden.

TECH Q&A: Windows 11 not always to blame

TECH Q&A

By STEVE ALEXANDER
Star Tribune (Minneapolis)

Steve Alexander covers technology for the Star Tribune of Minneapolis*. Readers may write to him at Tech Q&A, 425 Portland Ave. S., Minneapolis, Minn. 55488-0002; email: steve.j.alexander@gmail.com. Please include a full name, city and phone number.*

Q: I use Firefox as the default browser on Windows 10, and I've recently had the program crash at random times when it's idle. Is this related to Microsoft's decision to block Firefox from replacing Edge as the default browser in Windows 11? How can I avoid switching to Edge?

A: Your unexpected Firefox crashes on Windows 10 and the difficulty of making Firefox the default Web browser on Windows 11 are separate problems.

Last year, Microsoft made it difficult for the average user to replace the Edge browser as the default browser in Windows 11. Users had to open Settings, click Apps and choose "default apps." From the resulting list, they had to choose a browser other than Edge. They were then presented with a list of every conceivable type of file that could be opened in a browser. They had click each one and select the browser of their choice to open that particular file type. Only then would the browser they wanted become the default for Windows 11.

The move generated a lot of criticism—not surprising considering that Edge is the world's fourth most popular browser (see tinyurl.com/99vd58h3). Microsoft then shifted its policy and began developing a single control button that will enable Windows 11 users to switch the default browser from Edge to a non-Microsoft browser. The single-button approach is expected to arrive in a Windows 11 update sometime this year.

There are several reasons that your Windows 10 Firefox browser might crash (stop working) or hang (not respond even though it's still running.) Crashes can be caused by software that needs updating, malware, interference from other apps (such as antivirus or back-up programs) or flaws in your PC's RAM (computer chip) memory. (To troubleshoot unexpected Firefox crashes, see tinyurl.com/yk4d6jat).

When Firefox hangs, the problem may be that it's using too much computer chip processing power or too much RAM memory. These things can be prevented by disabling some browser add-on programs, or by setting the browser not to download some types of Web content, such as tracking software that monitors your online movements (see tinyurl.com/2p8kwkbz).

Q: After I upgraded to Windows 11, my Comcast e-mails started getting stuck in the outbox of the Windows Mail app. I must restart the PC for them to be sent. In addition, the Windows Mail outbox cannot be synced with other computers. A technician tried to fix things, but now my return e-mail address (contained in the message) has changed. I can't switch to a different e-mail provider because my e-mail address is on all my company's marketing material. What can I do?

A: Check to see where the problem lies. Use Comcast's e-mail website (see tinyurl.com/36p3fafv) to send a message. If the e-mail sends properly, Comcast's e-mail is working, and the problem is either in the Comcast-to-Mail app connection or in the Mail app itself.

To test the Comcast-to-Mail app connection, set up a free e-mail account at Gmail, Outlook.com or Yahoo Mail and use the PC's Mail app to send a message via the new account. If the message sends, the Comcast-to-Mail app connection is the problem (ask Comcast for help.) If the message doesn't send, the Mail app is at fault (see how to fix it at tinyurl.com/2sdb97w6).

Email tech questions to Steve Alexander at steve.j.alexander@gmail.com. Please include a full name, city and phone number.

Life & Style

Sheltering from bombs, Ukraine's 'cellar violinist' plays on

AP

Vera Lytovchenko holds her violin as she poses for a photo in a basement of an apartment building in Kharkiv,

ROME, Italy (AP)—A gentle tune from a violin played by a musician who has been dubbed Ukraine's "cellar violinist" is a lullaby for a child sheltered in the dark basement of an apartment building in the besieged Ukrainian city of Kharkiv.

Vera Lytovchenko has become an internet icon of resilience as images of the concert violinist playing in the basement bomb shelter have inspired an international audience via social media.

When heavy Russian bombing of Ukraine's northeastern city of Kharkiv started two weeks ago, Lytovchenko, her professor father and neighbors sought safety in their building's basement.

"Bombs can fall everywhere in our city, so we decided to go down in the cellar," the 39-year-old violinist told The Associated Press via Skype Wednesday during a brief respite from the bombing during a temporary cease-fire. "We're about 12 people now. We have little boys. We have teenagers. We have old women."

A week into their basement huddle, Lytovchenko decided to try to lift the spirits of her cellar mates by holding small concerts.

"All these people are my brothers and sisters now," she said. "I was trying to make them think about something and not about the war for some minutes while I'm playing."

Later she thought to post her recitals, featuring the calming strains of Vivaldi and even Lytovchenko singing a Russian folk song, on social media. The reaction surprised her: more than 40,000 views on Facebook and thousands more on YouTube.

"I didn't expect that because I was posting just to reach my friends, my relatives. My aunt is near Kyiv and I'm afraid for her," she said.

"My friends are in different cities all over Ukraine and I'm trying to keep a connection with them, I text them several times a day to know if they're alive," Lytovchenko said. "Many people text me now saying that my videos give them such support and hope. They can see that someone stays here" in Kharkiv.

"Someone is alive and someone keeps hope and is optimistic," she said.

On Wednesday, during the temporary cease-fire in Kharkiv, Ukraine's second-largest city, Lytovchenko was able to return to her apartment for a few hours. She told the AP she was happy to see sunlight after spending two weeks in the dark basement, adding that she and her neighbors are lucky because they have heating in the cellar and food.

Before the war, Lytovchenko played for the Kharkiv City Opera orchestra and taught music lessons.

"It was another life ... a normal life," she said of the time before the war. "I'm an orchestra player. I am a teacher in college. I have my students, I have friends, I play concerts, I play operas and ballets. I play Italian operas in the theater."

Describing Ukraine before the war, Lytovchenko said: "We had a cultural life in our country, our cities, in spite of the coronavirus. We were vaccinated. It was a normal life. ... But now we can't understand what is happening."

Young Ukrainian dancers, trapped abroad, get Paris residency

(AP PHOTO/THIBAULT CAMUS)

Ukrainian dancers of the Kyiv City Ballet company acknowledge applause in front of Ukrainian flag projected onto a screen at the end of a performance, at the Theatre de Chatelet, in Paris, Tuesday, March 8, 2022. The Kyiv City Ballet danced to a full house in Paris for the last show of a French tour that has left the company stranded after the war broke out in Ukraine. They described being physically and emotionally exhausted. Being given the opportunity to train and dance was for many a chance to focus on something other than the war.

PARIS (AP)—The dancers are torn between body and mind—physically on stage in Paris but in spirit back home in Kyiv.

In other circumstances, the Kyiv City Ballet's residency at the Théâtre du Chatelet would be a dream come true, but the stranded company of young dancers feels little but heartbreak.

"We are both physically and emotionally exhausted," Ekaterina Kozlova, the company's deputy director, told The Associated Press. "Everyone in the ballet is worried about their families, loved ones, friends, colleagues at home. It's been very difficult."

The Théâtre du Chatelet, in the heart of the French capital, offered them the stage on Tuesday for the last show of a French tour that has left the company stranded after the war broke out in Ukraine.

The dance director of the Paris Opera along with some of her company's best joined them for an open class before performing together a medley of ballet classics, with excerpts from Russian composer Pyotr Ilych Tchaikovsky's Swan Lake and The Nutcracker.

Being given the opportunity to train and dance was for many a chance to focus on "something other than the conflict in Ukraine," Kozlova said.

One of the dancers will be headed to the Ukrainian border in the coming days to pick up her young daughter who was accompanied out of the country.

Only a part of the company was travelling around France performing a shortened version of The Nutcracker for young audiences—most of the dancers in Paris are in their early 20s. Many of the ballet's star dancers stayed behind, waiting to join their friends after they reached Paris.

"Most of our artists are stuck in Ukraine," Director Ivan Kozlov told the crowd.

The city of Paris and the ballet community have helped find temporary accommodation for the Ukrainian dancers who say they wish to continue dancing in France and elsewhere. The Chatelet theater offered the entire group a residency, although Tuesday's last-minute performance is their last for now.

Man's behavior centers only on himself at home

DEAR ABBY: I refer to my husband as "the most single married man" I know. He turns off the lights, turns off the heat and turns off the TV while I'm still watching or still plan on being home.

His latest "single" thing is that he planned a birthday dinner out with our son and other family members. Guess what? I found out about it from the birthday boy. We have been married almost 50 years. All our children are in their 40s.

I have spoken to him numerous times about his forgetting my presence in a room, but I have never been excluded from a family birthday until now. I am thinking of writing a book titled, "The Most Single Married Man I Know." What should I be doing differently

FORGOTTEN WOMAN IN NEW HAMPSHIRE

DEAR FORGOTTEN: If this has been going on since you and your husband were married, accept that he is someone who is unusually centered on himself. If this is something relatively recent, he may need to be physically and neurologically evaluated by his physician.

If there is nothing "wrong" with him, recognize it's time to fend for yourself. Remember to monitor the thermostat, keep a flashlight handy and be prepared to explore activities you enjoy in case your husband "forgets" to include you in the future.

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: My best friend's father recently passed away. A memorial has been planned on the day of a wedding I had agreed to attend with my girlfriend. In this situation involving two significant one-time life events, is it more courteous to defer to the living or the dead?

UNSURE IN SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

DEAR UNSURE: Much depends upon your relationship with both of these people. Because your best friend may need emotional support during this sad time, I am inclined to suggest that you go to the memorial -- and have your girlfriend attend the wedding so you will be represented. If you explain the circumstances to the person who sent the wedding invitation, there should be no hurt feelings.

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: I recently received a board game as a present. The problem is that I don't like the game. I live alone on disability with a very limited income and don't have anyone to play it with me anyway.

When I mentioned to the giver that I was thinking of returning it, they almost burst into tears. The giver is a relative of a close friend and lives with her. I really could use the money. What should I do?

WONDERING IN WISCONSIN

DEAR WONDERING: I have said this before, and it's worth repeating: Once a gift is given, it belongs to the recipient to do with as they please. Because you don't like the game, have no one to play it with and need the money, return the darn thing. Your mistake was announcing your intention to the giver.

DEAR ABBY

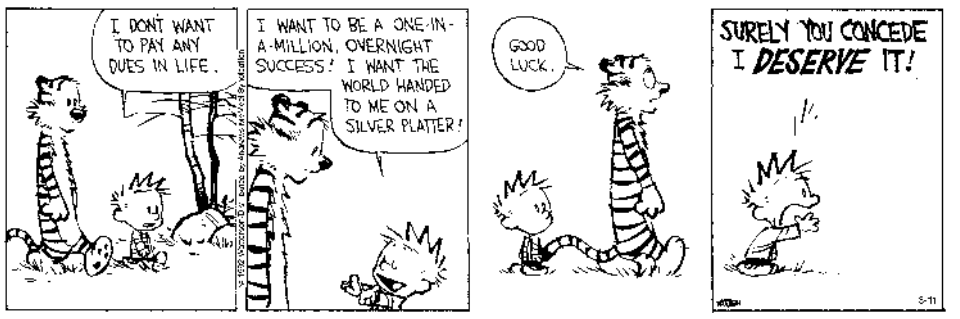
By Abigail Van Buren
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Pastimes

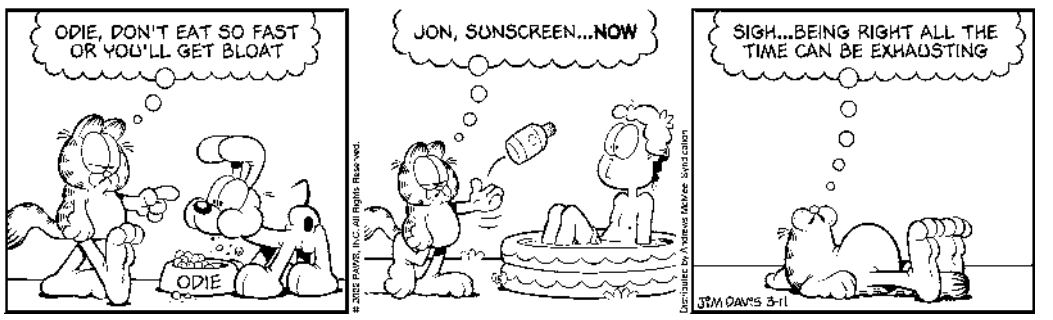
Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson


I DON'T WANT TO PAY ANY DUES IN LIFE.
I WANT TO BE A ONE-IN-A-MILLION, OVERNIGHT SUCCESS! I WANT THE WORLD HANDED TO ME ON A SILVER PLATTER!
GOOD LUCK.
SURELY YOU CONCEDE I DESERVE IT!

Garfield®

By Jim Davis



Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

HELLO? THIS IS ADAM.
MY PCR TEST WAS NEGATIVE? THAT IS GREAT. THANK YOU.
CLICK
ADAM? WAS THAT THE DOCTOR? CAN YOU COME OUT OF QUARANTINE?
UM...

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy

CAN YOU MAKE OUT THIS NAME? THE GIRL BY THE JUKE BOX WROTE IT DOWN FOR ME.
IT LOOKS LIKE... DRO.. DROP... DE.. A... WAIT! "DROP DEAD."
STRANGE NAME MAYBE IT'S LITHUANIAN.

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS
1 "Poison" shrub
6 Your
9 CEO's deg.
12 Hemingway's "— Time"
13 Chit
14 — Lingus
15 Diacritical mark
16 Hawaiian island
18 Insulted, slangily
20 Plane part
21 Slugger's stat
23 Polite address
24 Expels
25 Charged bits
27 Autocrats
29 Explorer Vasco —
31 Overflowed
35 Primary
37 Japanese noodles
38 Nasser's successor
41 McCourt memoir
43 Scale abbr.
44 Computer brand
45 Corsage flower
47 "Tartuffe" playwright
49 Love, to Luigi
52 Bikini half
53 "Gosh!"
54 Expert
55 Whatever
56 Republicans
57 A lot

DOWN
1 Perch
2 Numerical prefix
3 Window trim
4 BMW rival
5 Salad green
6 Stopwatches
7 Cobra feature
8 Actor Brynner
9 Mighty sharks
10 Monster
11 Zodiac ram
17 Burdens
19 Ravi's instrument
21 Abolish
22 Feathery neckpiece
24 Mine yield
26 Jungle trek
28 Top story
30 Cambridge sch.
32 Neighbor of Ukraine
33 Recede
34 "— Kapital"
36 Meryl of film
38 Brazilian dance
39 Future oak
40 Postpone
42 Pillow covers
45 Layered cookie
46 Apple on a desk
48 Nest occupier
50 Roulette bet
51 USN rank

Solution time: 25 mins.

T	.	C	S			D	A	M		S	S	N	S
H	O	C	T			E	Y	E		.	C	E	E
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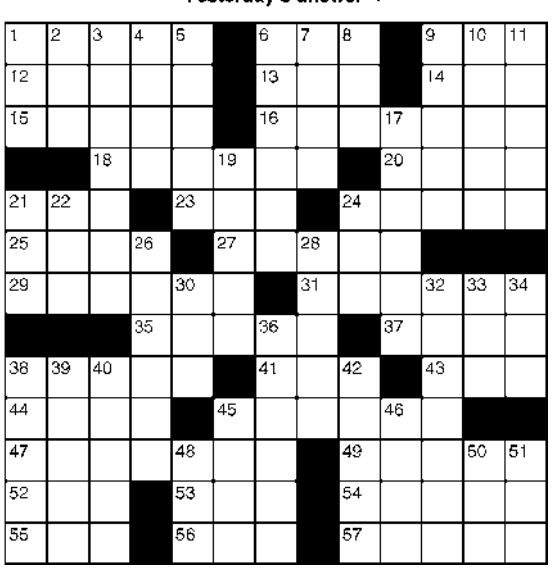
W	E	B	B	E	D			M	A	C	R	O	S
A	M	B	I			R	U	B			K	A	V	A
D	U	E	T			A	N	E			E	M	I	T
S	S	R	S			M	I	R			R	I	D	E

Yesterday's answer 3-11



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call 1-900-226-5955! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Anthony Davis, 29; Thora Birch, 40; Johnny Knoxville, 51; Terrence Howard, 53.

Happy Birthday: Formulate your thoughts and create a plan that will help you structure what you want to accomplish this year. Abide by rules to avoid setbacks. Timing will require impeccable execution to get satisfactory results. Be innovative, think big, and present and promote with vision, but recognize what is and isn't doable. Home improvements will make your life easier. Your numbers are 4, 16, 20, 23, 34, 38, 47.

ARIES *(March 21-April 19):* Self-assertive action will impress someone who can help speed up whatever you pursue. Get involved in projects that are meaningful to you, and focus on better health, relationships and overall success. Take care of contractional matters quickly to curb stress and uncertainty. ✪✪

TAURUS *(April 20-May 20):* Express your desires, and follow through with your plans. Don't let what others do influence you to make decisions that are not right. Take a secretive approach to dodge interference. Share only with those who share your aspirations. ✪✪✪✪

GEMINI *(May 21-June 20):* Speak to whoever is in charge, and you'll bypass the nonsense that goes along with lineups and jumping through hoops. Getting the lowdown before you begin something new will allow you to act quickly and secure your position. ✪✪✪

CANCER *(June 21-July 22):* Educate yourself before you take on something foreign to you. Go directly to the source, ask questions, take notes and head in the direction that offers hope and promise. Share your thoughts, and someone will clear up any uncertainty you harbor. ✪✪✪

LEO *(July 23-Aug. 22):* Discuss money matters, contracts and health issues with someone who can shed light on what baffle you. Don't feel you have to initiate a sudden change because someone else does. Test your strength and courage, and do your own thing. ✪✪✪

VIRGO *(Aug. 23-Sept. 22):* Hang out with people who have something to contribute. Gather knowledge and experience, and be open to suggestions and doing things differently. You will make worthwhile connections with people who inspire you to expand your talents, skills and aspirations. ✪✪✪✪

LIBRA *(Sept. 23-Oct. 22):* Keep emotions in check when dealing with professional matters and discussions that can influence your reputation and goals. If you want to get ahead, discipline and hard work are the paths to your success. Love and romance are in the stars. ✪✪

SCORPIO *(Oct. 23-Nov. 21):* Take care of personal matters, finances, home and family. Listen and offer solutions. Build a place of comfort and convenience that friends and family find welcoming. Express concerns and share, and happiness will follow. ✪✪✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS *(Nov. 22-Dec. 21):* Document what's being said, and get what you want in writing. Someone will try to mislead you if given a chance. Talk is cheap; actions speak louder than words. Live up to your promises, and expect others to fulfill their obligations. ✪✪✪

CAPRICORN *(Dec. 22-Jan. 19):* Consider what you do for a living and the way you earn and spend your money. You are overdue for a change, and updating your skills and qualifications will help you explore new possibilities. A challenge will boost your confidence and enthusiasm. ✪✪✪

AQUARIUS *(Jan. 20-Feb. 18):* Do something creative. Turn something you love to do into a profitable pastime. Don't deny yourself the chance to grow personally, financially, emotionally. Take the initiative to build the life that makes you feel good. Romance is featured. ✪✪✪

PISCES *(Feb. 19-March 20):* Concentrate on home, family and building a life of comfort and convenience. Take responsibility for your happiness, and bring about the changes necessary to help you excel. Be secretive about your plans until you have everything in place. ✪✪✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are benevolent, sincere and generous. You are creative and entertaining.

✪: Avoid conflicts; work behind the scenes. ✪✪: You can accomplish, but don't rely on others. ✪✪✪: Focus and you'll reach your goals. ✪✪✪✪: Aim high; start new projects. ✪✪✪✪✪: Nothing can stop you; go for gold.

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

7	3		2		8	9		5
					5			6
2								
3	9							7
				2				
8							3	9
								4
9			7					
4		6	3		2		5	1

Difficulty Level ★★★★ 3/11

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's Answer

9	7	8	2	5	1	4	6	3
4	3	2	8	6	7	9	1	5
1	5	6	9	3	4	7	2	8
2	8	7	1	9	3	6	5	4
6	1	4	7	2	5	8	3	9
3	9	5	4	8	6	2	7	1
7	2	1	5	4	8	3	9	6
8	6	9	3	1	2	5	4	7
5	4	3	6	7	9	1	8	2

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

ELLESMERE ISLAND, CANADA — Solution: 10 letters

P	A	K	D	Y	S	R	A	E	B	R	A	L	O	P
A	E	E	M	O	R	D	O	R	E	A	M	T	T	O
D	N	A	L	G	P	S	L	A	E	S	U	A	R	L
A	K	E	R	U	E	R	O	R	G	V	S	R	E	E
N	W	L	E	L	H	R	I	N	A	Q	K	E	L	I
A	A	I	Q	U	T	T	I	N	I	R	P	A	A	Q
C	L	Z	L	S	Q	K	U	K	C	U	E	S	K	O
S	R	A	A	D	I	N	I	B	O	E	R	W	E	X
R	U	B	R	V	L	Q	O	B	F	D	K	O	H	E
E	S	E	G	K	T	I	I	R	O	C	E	L	A	N
G	E	T	E	A	C	R	F	R	T	E	O	L	Z	O
E	S	H	A	F	A	O	S	E	I	H	O	I	E	S
I	G	L	A	C	I	E	R	S	E	L	A	W	N	R
R	U	T	E	N	T	H	A	M	L	E	T	R	D	E
Ⓚ	Ⓐ	Ⓔ	Ⓟ	U	A	E	B	R	A	B	I	R	D	S

© 2022 Andrews McMeel Syndication www.wonderword.com 3/11

Aerodrome, Alert, Areas, Astro, Barbeau, Birds, Canada, Caribou, CFB, Dorset, Elizabeth, Eureka, Glaciers, Hamlet, Krieger, Lake Hazen, Large, Musk, North, Nunavut, Oxen, Peak, Pearl, Perkeo, Polar Bears, Pole, Prince, Qikiqtaaluk, Queen, Quttinirpaaq, Rock, Seals, Serson, Sydkap, Tenth, Thule, Vikings, Wales, Walruses, Wildlife, Willow

Yesterday's Answer: Romantic

Jo's Jewels Collector's Edition is back by popular demand! Purchase online at www.WonderWordBooks.com or call 1-800-642-6480.

Booker returns, NBA-leading Suns rout Heat on back-to-back

MIAMI (AP)—Not that there was any doubt about this, but the Phoenix Suns are going to the playoffs.

The Suns didn't leave any doubt in a matchup of conference leaders, either.

Devin Booker scored 23 points, Mikal Bridges added 21 and the Suns shook off a slow start to beat the Miami Heat 111-90 on Wednesday night — becoming the first team this season to clinch a postseason berth.

"I told the guys it was one of the best defensive performances I've ever seen," Suns coach Monty Williams said. "I've been around for a little bit."

Booker, returning from a four-game absence for virus-related issues — he said he was asymptomatic and didn't have any problems — flirted with a triple-double, finishing with nine assists and eight rebounds.

His first trip to the playoffs last season ended with a loss in the NBA Finals. He's looking for a bit more this time.

"We know what we're working for," Booker said.

Phoenix improved the NBA's best record to 53-13, and the reigning Western Conference champion Suns have now beaten all other 29 teams this season — the first time they've done that since 2006-07.

The Suns also avenged a 23-point loss to Miami in January.

"I'm sure they remembered that," Heat coach Erik Spoelstra said. "They wanted to really make a statement tonight. They just outplayed us."

Coming off a victory Tuesday night at Orlando, Phoenix improved its NBA-best road mark to 25-6. The Suns have an 8 1/2-game lead over Memphis and are nine games ahead of Golden State and East-leading Miami.

Deandre Ayton had 19 points on 9-for-10 shooting and 10 rebounds for the Suns, who got 11 points and 15 rebounds from JaVale McGee, and 11 points apiece from Jae Crowder and Cameron Payne.

Duncan Robinson scored 22 points for Miami, which lost for just the third time in its last 15 games.

"They were first to the ball a lot," Robinson said about the Suns. "They were the aggressor. ... Unacceptable."

Bam Adebayo and Tyler Herro each scored 17 for the Heat, which played without Jimmy Butler (sinus congestion) and lost key reserve Caleb Martin midway through the second quarter to a hyperextended left knee. The Heat expect to know more Thursday.

The Suns were down by 11 early, took a two-point lead at the half and then outscored Miami 34-19 in the third quarter to blow matters open. Booker capped the quarter with a long 3-pointer, the Heat went 1 for 8 in the quarter from beyond the arc and it was 91-74 going into the final 12 minutes.

AP

Phoenix Suns guard Devin Booker (1) gets away from Miami Heat guard Kyle Lowry (7) during the first half of an NBA basketball game, Wednesday, March 9, 2022, in Miami.

"He was ready," Bridges said about Booker's return.

Miami came out flying, scoring 25 points in the first 6 minutes — a burst fueled by five 3-pointers. The Heat were 9 for 12 from the floor in that stretch, 5 for 6 from 3-point range and finished the burst by making seven consecutive shots.

That's when Phoenix's defense showed up. The Heat were 5 for 27 on 3s the rest of the way. An 18-7 run by the Suns pushed the margin to 80-65 late in the third and the lead eventually swelled to 27 in the fourth.

"We wanted to make a statement here," Booker said.

Phoenix outrebounded Miami 55-38. The Suns need to go 10-6 in their final 16 games to post the best regular-season record in franchise history. The Suns were 62-20 in 1992-93 and 2004-05. Crowder got introduced last among Phoenix's starters, a tribute Miami often gives former Heat players to ensure they get a proper and warm welcome. The fans obliged. Phoenix improved to 5-3 without Chris Paul (fractured thumb).

It was the 21st game Butler has missed this season; Miami is 13-8 without its highest-paid player. Victor Oladipo, in his second game back after 11 months away recovering from leg surgery, had four points in 16 minutes. Don't expect changes to Oladipo's minutes allotment anytime soon, Spoelstra said. "I'm going to give that same answer for a while," he said. Miami fell to 4-14 when scoring 102 points or less. When the Heat score 103 or more, they're 40-9.

Phoenix allowed 25 points in the first six minutes, a season worst for that span. The Suns then allowed two points in the next six minutes, a season best for that span. And the tone was set for the rest of the evening.

Raptors 119, Spurs 104

In San Antonio, Fred VanVleet had 26 points and Toronto beat San Antonio, delaying Gregg Popovich's coronation as the winningest coach in NBA history.

Popovich is tied with his friend and mentor, Don Nelson, with 1,335 regular-season victories. San Antonio's next opportunity to get the record for its 73-year-old coach is Friday night at home against Utah.

VanVleet was 7 for 15 from the field in his return from a five-game absence because of knee soreness. Scottie Barnes and Pascal Siakam added 20 points to help Toronto snap a three-game skid.

Keldon Johnson had 27 points for San Antonio, and Dejounte Murray added 25 points, 12 assists and nine rebounds. The Spurs have lost five of six games.

Bucks 124, Hawks 115

In Milwaukee, Giannis Antetokounmpo had 43 points and 12 rebounds and Milwaukee beat Atlanta for its sixth straight victory.

Defending champion Milwaukee edged a half-game ahead of idle Philadelphia for second place in the Eastern Conference and moved within two games of first-place Miami, which lost at home to NBA-leading Phoenix.

Bobby Portis added 23 points and 15 rebounds, and Khris Middleton had 23 points and eight assists to help Milwaukee beat Atlanta for the first time in three tries this season. Trae Young led Atlanta with 27 points and 11 assists.

Timberwolves 132, Thunder 102

In Minneapolis, Malik Beasley made 11 3-pointers to set a Timberwolves franchise-record and finished with 33 points to help lift Minnesota past Oklahoma City for its sixth win in a row.

Beasley took 17 3-points. He didn't play the final 4:57, ending three made 3-pointers shy of Klay Thompson's NBA record.

Taurean Prince scored 17 points off the bench for Minnesota, and Karl-Anthony Towns had 13 points and 11 rebounds in 29 minutes.

Aaron Wiggins led Oklahoma City with 25 points and nine rebounds.

Clippers 115, Wizards 109

In Los Angeles, Nicolas Batum hit the go-ahead 3-pointer with 31.2 seconds remaining, Reggie Jackson scored 31 points and Los Angeles scored the final 11 points in a win over Washington.

Los Angeles held Washington scoreless over the last 2:37, and Jackson's two free throws with 12.3 seconds left to put the Clippers up by four.

The Wizards have blown leads to lose both of their meetings against Los Angeles this year, although this hole wasn't as deep as the previous meeting. The Clippers pulled off the second-biggest comeback in NBA history in the first showdown, rallying from a 35-point, first-half deficit to defeat the Wizards 116-115 on Jan. 25.

Marcus Morris Sr. added 27 points and Luke Kennard 19 for the Clippers, who snapped a two-game losing streak.

Rockets 139, Lakers 130, OT

In Houston, rookie Jalen Green scored a career-high 32 points, including 10 in overtime, and Houston outlasted Los Angeles.

Last in the Western Conference, Houston withstood a triple-double from LeBron James — 23 points, 14 rebounds and a season-high 12 assists — and Russell Westbrook's 30-point night for their second win in 15 games.

The Lakers have dropped nine straight on the road, and six of their last seven overall

Celtics 115, Hornets 101

In Charlotte, N.C., Jayson Tatum scored 16 of his 44 points in the fourth quarter, helping Boston beat Charlotte for its fourth straight victory.

Coming off a 54-point performance against Brooklyn on Sunday, Tatum made 16 of 24 shots from the field and 6 of 9 from beyond the 3-point arc. He also made all six free throws.

Jaylen Brown had 15 points for Boston.

Miles Bridges and P.J. Washington each had 17 points for Charlotte. They fell to 1-12 on the second night of back-to-back games.

Knicks 107, Mavericks 77

In Dallas, Julius Randle scored 26 points against his hometown team and New York won for the fifth consecutive time in Dallas.

RJ Barrett added 18 points for the Knicks. They won their third straight after a seven-game losing streak and improved to 3-2 on a seven-game trip.

Luka Doncic scored 17 of his 31 points in the third quarter for Dallas. The Mavericks missed their first 19 3-point shots while falling behind by 28 in their lowest-scoring first half of the season.

Jazz 123, Trail Blazers 85

In Salt Lake City, Bojan Bogdanovic scored 27 points, hitting six 3-pointers, to lead Utah past Portland.

Donovan Mitchell added 16 points, and Royce O'Neale had 11 points and 10 rebounds for the Jazz. They have won eighth straight at home.

Trendon Watford scored a career-high 22 points for Portland. The Trail Blazers have lost six straight games since the All-Star break.

Nuggets 106, Kings 100

In Sacramento, Calif., Nikola Jokic had 38 points, 18 rebounds and seven assists and Denver Nuggets held off Sacramento after blowing an 18-point lead.

Monte Morris added 20 points and made a critical three-point play late to help preserve the Nuggets' fourth consecutive win and 12th in the last 14 games.

De'Aaron Fox had 32 points and 10 assists for Sacramento.

Bulls 114, Pistons 108

In Detroit, DeMar DeRozan scored 16 of his 36 points in the fourth quarter and Chicago beat Detroit to snap a five-game losing streak.

Zach LeVine added 25 points for the Bulls, and Nikola Vucevic had 21 points. They won despite only hitting three 3-pointers.

Cade Cunningham had 22 points for the Pistons, but no one else scored more than 12. Detroit had won three straight.

Magic 108, Pelicans 102

In New Orleans, Cole Anthony scored 19 points, Gary Harris added 16 in a reserve role, and the Orlando Magic beat the New Orleans Pelicans 108-102 on Wednesday night.

Terrence Ross scored 12 of his 14 points in the fourth quarter, highlighted by a pair of 3s and a 360-degree, right-handed dunk to help Orlando stunt a New Orleans comeback bid that had briefly cut the Pelicans' deficit to six. He capped his night with a pair of clutch free throws with 10 seconds left.

"Terrance is very old," a grinning Anthony said of the 31-year-old Ross, a 10-year veteran. "At times I think that his age is starting to get to him — and then I see him do a 360-degree dunk like that and I'm like, 'Yeah, he's got another 10 years.'"

Franz Wagner had 15 points for Orlando, which snapped a two-game skid by leading for nearly the entire game, and by as many as 16 points.

MLB cancels 93 more games, gap narrows in bargaining

NEW YORK (AP)—Baseball Commissioner Rob Manfred canceled 93 more games Wednesday, appearing to cut off the chance to play a full 162-game schedule and threatening locked out players with loss of salary and service time.

As the sides narrowed many economic differences to a small margin, they became bogged down over management's attempt to gain an international amateur draft. Talks on that narrow topic were to continue Wednesday night.

In the meantime, at 6:30 p.m. on the 98th day of the lockout, Manfred announced two additional series had been canceled through April 13. That raised the total to 184 games wiped out from the 2,430-game regular season, or 7.6%.

"Because of the logistical realities of the calendar, another two series are being removed from the schedule, meaning that opening day is postponed until April 14," Manfred said.

Given how close the sides are on economic issues, a breakdown over an international draft was both puzzling and stunning. But following years of simmering distrust that have heated to a boil, it also was predictable.

"There's a lot going on in the world right now where you can certainly look out of touch," Arizona Diamondbacks president CEO Derrick Hall said during a news conference. "I'm saddened by all this, saddened by everything."

The union's latest counteroffer was hand delivered by chief negotiator Bruce Meyer to MLB's office shortly before 2 p.m. after he walked three blocks through a wintry mix from union headquarters.

While the gaps shrunk on the luxury tax, pre-arbitration bonus pool and minimum salary, management continued to press for its long-held goal of an international amateur draft. Players have repeatedly rejected the proposal since it was made on July 28.

"We never offered the Int'l Draft" tweeted Mets pitcher Max Scherzer, among the eight players on the union's executive subcommittee. "We did discuss it, but MLB told us they were NOT going to offer anything for it. At that point, we informed all players & agreed to no draft."

The union reacted angrily to Manfred's announcement.

"The owners' decision to cancel additional games is completely unnecessary," it said in a statement. "After making a set of comprehensive proposals to the league earlier this afternoon and being told substantive responses were forthcoming, players have yet to hear back."

AP

Chief union negotiator Bruce Meyer, center, and general counsel Ian Penny, right, leave Major League Baseball's office in New York, Wednesday, March 9, 2022.

Manfred had set a Tuesday deadline for a deal to preserve a 162-game schedule, and staff had started planning for opening day on April 6/7, back from the original March 31. The deadline was extended it to 2 p.m. Wednesday and then to 6 p.m.

MLB said it would not make a new counteroffer to players unless the union first chose one of three options:

■ Agree to the international draft in exchange for the elimination of direct amateur draft pick compensation for qualified free agents.

■ Keep compensation in exchange for MLB dropping the international draft proposal.

■ Drop compensation while giving players until Nov. 15 to accept an international draft starting in 2024 and giving MLB the right to re-open the labor contract after the 2024 season if players fail to accept the draft.

Players rejected all three options and instead proposed to drop compensation for this year, have the sides agree to a draft by Nov. 15 or then revert to compensation for the 2022-23 offseason. MLB said it did not receive that until after the 6 p.m. deadline.

"In a last-ditch effort to preserve a 162-game season, this week we have made good-faith proposals that address the specific concerns voiced by the MLBPA and would have allowed the players to return to the field immediately," Manfred said. "The clubs went to extraordinary lengths to meet the substantial demands of the MLBPA. On the key economic issues that have posed stumbling blocks, the clubs proposed ways to bridge gaps to preserve a full schedule. Regrettably, after our second late-night bargaining session in a week, we remain without a deal."

Manfred had called off the first two series on March 1, a day after his initial deadline for a deal. The latest cancellations included four series finales on Apri 14.

While Manfred did not use the word "canceled," he left the apppearance 162 games no longer could be played due to baseball's ninth work stoppage, its first since 1995.

"We were talking these last few days about taking those first two series and finding a way to get them back in the schedule," Hall said. "From what I'm hearing now, these four series are out."

If games are canceled on April 14 and players do not receive credit for service time in the eventual settlement, free-agent eligibility would be pushed back for many players, including Shohei Ohtani from 2023 to 2024, Pete Alonso from 2024 to 2025, Jake Cronenworth from 2025 to 2026 and Jonathan India from 2026 to 2027.

If cancellations go through April 15, the stoppage would spill onto the 75th anniversary of Jackie Robinson breaking the major league color barrier.

Players dropped their threshold for the luxury tax to $232 million this year, with increases to $235 million in 2023, $240 million in 2024 and $245 million in 2025 and $250 million in 2026.

Players had been at $238 million to $263 million in their previous proposal of a week earlier. They were within 2.5% of management's starting figure of $230 million in Tuesday's proposal. Players were within 3.2% of MLB's $242 million for 2026.

Management's desire for an additional fourth tax threshold at $60 million above the first threshold is among the contentious points remaining.

Players dropped to $65 million from $80 million for their proposed bonus pool for pre-arbitration-eligible players, a day after MLB raised its offer from $30 million to $40 million. The union is asking for $5 million annual increases, while management's offer is the same for all five years.

The union dropped its proposed minimum salary to $710,000 from $725,000, a figure rising to $780,000 by 2026. Management is at $700,000 this year, rising to $770,000. The union's proposals on the tax threshold and bonus pool were first reported by The Athletic.

In the proposal for an international draft, teams would rotate picking in different quadrants of the first round over a four-year period, A slotting system would be installed similar to what the union agreed to starting in 2012 for the amateur draft covering residents of the U.S., Puerto Rico and Canada.

The international draft proposal includes hard slots that could not be negotiated by individuals. MLB estimates $17 million in additional spending for the drafted international players above the $166.3 million spent by the 30 teams in 2021, plus an additional $6 million on non-drafted players. The draft would start in 2024.

International players would lose the right to pick which team they sign with. The age for the draft would be in the year a player turns 16.

MLB BRIEFS

Cardinals pitcher Kwang-hyun Kim joins Korea's Landers

INCHEON, South Korea (AP)—Kwang-hyun Kim has left the St. Louis Cardinals and will return to South Korea on a record four-year contract.

The left-handed pitcher will rejoin his old club, which is now known as the SSG Landers, in the Korean Baseball Organization.

The club issued a statement Tuesday saying the deal was worth up to 15.1 billion won ($12.3 million) over four seasons and was the largest contract in the league's history.

Kim pitched for the SK Wyverns, as the Landers were previously known, from 2007 to 2019 before joining the Cardinals on a two-year contract. The 33-year-old Kim became a free agent after the 2021 season.

He was the KBO's regular season MVP in 2008 and won four Korean Series titles with the Incheon-based club.

In two seasons with St. Louis, Kim went 10-7 with a 2.98 ERA in 35 games, including 28 starts. He began the 2020 season as the Cardinals closer, recording a save in his first Major League appearance at the age of 32.

"While pitching in the majors, I got to experience baseball at the highest level and also learned the value of connecting with fans," Kim said in a statement released by the Landers. "I was able to challenge myself in the majors because of support from fans here. I decided I wanted to give back to them once I returned to the KBO.

"The Landers recognized my value with the biggest contract ever in the KBO — I didn't have to think long and hard about the reunion."

Kim is expected to report for spring training Wednesday.

3 more minor leaguers suspended for positive drug tests

NEW YORK (AP)—Seattle's Bernie Martinez was suspended for 80 games, and the Mariners' Luis Baez and San Francisco's Sonny Vargas were banned for 60 games each Friday following positive tests for performance-enhancing substances under the minor league drug program.

All three are pitchers.

Martinez, with High-A Everett, tested positive for LGD-4033, a selective androgen receptor modulator, the commissioner's office said.

Baez and Vargas, both assigned to the rookie-level Arizona Complex League, tested positive for Stanozolol, synthetic steroid derived from testosterone.

Seventeen players have been suspended this year under the minor league drug program.

Players with major league contracts have not been tested since Dec. 1 while Major League Baseball and the players' association negotiate following the expiration of the labor contract and Joint Drug Program.

2022 NMI Women's 10K moved to March 26

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Northern Marianas Athletics has rescheduled its 2nd Annual NMI Women's 10K Run from Feb. 12 to Feb. 26. The sports organization has been holding the event for the past two years in celebration of Women's Month in the Marianas and International Women's Day 2022.

NMA secretary general Robin Sapong said they postponed the NMI Women's 10K Run for two weeks due to a "few hurdles in both logistics and equipment requirements."

The race will use the 10K Saipan Half Marathon course along Beach Road Saipan and is open to all female competitors. Off-island and male competitors can all participate virtually, by running 10K or 5K anywhere they would like between March 8 and March 31. This will require you to run with a GPS-enabled device and upload your results to this site.

NMA said finisher's medals will be awarded to those who complete the NMI Women's 10K Run. Age division up for grabs are under 18, open, 35-39, 40-44,45-49, 50-54,55-59, 60-64, and 65 plus.

For virtual runners, the following events are offered—men's and women's 10K, men's and women's 5K, male/female 10K under 18, male/female 5K under 18, and 4x5K relay.

NMA is expecting a strong turnout for this year's edition of the NMI Women's 10K Run. "Our expectation is to be able to deliver a great experience for our participants," said Sapong.

MARK RABAGO

Lily Muldoon, right, runs with her Baby Got Track teammates during last December's Christmas Island Relay.

As incentive, the NMA official said the Top 3 finishers of this year's NMI Women's 10K Run will receive free entries to the Saipan Half Marathon set for next month.

"The in-person 10K will also be a test run for our new timing system which we are securing for us for use to deliver chiming timing results. We still limit entries below 115. So far, our pre-registration was at 20 as of last Friday," said Sapong.

Last year, Lily Muldoon topped the inaugural edition of the race after clocking in at 43:42. Noriko Jim came in second at 44:27 with Akiko Miller completing the Top 3 in 46:49.

For more information or to register for the 2nd Annual NMI Women's 10K Run, copy and paste the link: https://raceroster.com/events/2022/56908/nmi-10km-womens-run?fbclid=IwAR31GLNqbAm8dHIsJx4h_rzp3Ai-Kj4qsviPyMKdNgEWIz-eBqlKIS3mt1auw.

NMIVA to hold Mini Games tryout anew

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSOCIATE EDITOR

The Northern Mariana Islands Volleyball Association will hold another qualifier for the CNMI National Beach Volleyball Team for the Northern Marianas Pacific Mini Games 2022 on March 19 at the sand courts of Crowne Plaza Resort in Garapan.

Dubbed For The Luck of Volleyball, the one-day tournament is a men's and women's doubles event where the Top 2 teams from each division taking home prizes.

NMIVA president Somia Quan confirmed that the competition will serve as a tryout for the Mini Games that will be held for the first time in the CNMI from June 17 to 25 this year.

"We consider this still a tryout tournament as the tryout committee is constantly evaluating individual players. The difference between this tournament and the last tournaments we've held is that the players will choose their own partner to participate together. This is our first beach 2v2 tournament of the year so I would expect quite a bit of entries," she said.

MARK RABAGO

For The Luck of Volleyball will be held on March 19 at the sand courts of Crowne Plaza Resort in Garapan.

Quan added that the For The Luck of Volleyball will not only serve as a Mini Games tryout, it will also play a crucial role as NMIVA ramps up to hosting the 2022 Marianas Cup next month.

"We hope to use this tournament as a feeder tournament for the Marianas Cup which we will be having the weekend of April 23-24. At that tourney, we hope to have the men's and women's national teams from Guam and Palau participating along with some other off-island teams."

Last November, Tyce Mister and Kathleen Winkfield were hailed King and Queen of the Court during the second Mini Games tryouts held by NMIVA also at the Crowne Plaza Resort venue.

Registration for the For The Luck of Volleyball costs $20 per player and those interested can register online at https://bit.ly/35juNUp. Registration deadline is 6pm on March 18. For inquiries, email nmivolleyball@gmail.com.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

NBA STANDINGS

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division	W	L	Pct	GB
Philadelphia	40	24	.625	—
Boston	40	27	.597	1½
Toronto	35	30	.538	5½
Brooklyn	33	33	.500	8
New York	28	38	.424	13
Southeast Division				
Miami	44	23	.657	—
Charlotte	32	35	.478	12
Atlanta	31	34	.477	12
Washington	29	35	.453	13½
Orlando	17	50	.254	27
Central Division				
Milwaukee	42	25	.627	—
Chicago	40	26	.606	1½
Cleveland	38	27	.585	3
Indiana	22	45	.328	20
Detroit	18	48	.273	23½

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Southwest Division	W	L	Pct	GB
Memphis	45	22	.672	—
Dallas	40	26	.606	4½
New Orleans	27	39	.409	17½
San Antonio	25	41	.379	19½
Houston	17	49	.258	27½
Northwest Division				
Utah	41	24	.631	—
Denver	40	26	.606	1½
Minnesota	38	29	.567	4
Portland	25	40	.385	16
Oklahoma City	20	46	.303	21½
Pacific Division				
x-Phoenix	53	13	.803	—
Golden State	44	22	.667	9
L.A. Clippers	35	33	.515	19
L.A. Lakers	28	37	.431	24½
Sacramento	24	44	.353	30

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

SWIMMERS

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age group.

"The mutual time trial in my opinion was a big success. Both swim teams came together and cheered on for each other. I was glad I had the chance to talk to some people and swim together with them because I wanted to feel the competitiveness I hadn't felt in quite a while. I am happy for some of my times but some, I think I could have done better, which I will next time. Practice does not make you perfect, it makes improvements which can exceed perfection. Thank you, PIC, for letting us use your pool! I hope we have another chance to use it for a mutual swim race or time trial. Until then, I will be doing my best in practice," said Shoko.

"Swimmers from Tsunami and SSC did great in the mutual time trial. Everyone had high spirits and positive vibes throughout the day, and I enjoyed swimming my events and watching everyone else swim their events. It was great to swim in the PIC lap pool and familiarize myself with the distance between the start to the end of the pool. I had an awesome time and got good results. I hope to be back and swim in the PIC lap pool again!" said Asaka.

Isaiah Aleksenko, who also swam in the 11-and-over division, said he's just happy to compete again in a pool, lap pool or not.

"I loved it because it was basically a 50-yard pool and now I can calculate what my time was and I'm pretty amazed with my time and that I beat two of the fastest and strongest swimmers in Tsunami Saipan. I hope we can do this more in the future."

For Shuman Barman, the mutual meet was an opportunity to measure himself again in a pool.

"This time trial was very fun for me and I'm glad we were able to update my time in a 25-yard pool. I'm also glad that we swam with Saipan Swim Club and bond our relationship. I'm looking forward for another time trial that we can swim together."

His sister, Sari, said the event brought out cherished memories of swimming in the now-mothballed Marpi pool

"The time trial I did on Monday and Wednesday was like I was back in 2018 swim meet. I'm happy that I was able to participate in the time trial. In the 100y IM, one of my favorites, my coach told me the plan, 'Go fast for fly and backstroke' because I'm not really good at breaststroke and freestyle. And his plan worked! I was able to get a fast time."

The brother-and-sister tandem swam in the 11-and-over division.

MPU

From Page 24

Taiga Namai-Scoggins and Lukas Lee tallied three goals apiece to lead MP United-1's easy win, while Cody scored the other goal for the squad. Emerson Brillo registered twin goals for TanHoldings, which drew its other goal from Kian Andrei Estolas.

BOYS U16
MPU 5, Matansa 2

MP United also won its season opener in the boys U16 division after outclassing Matansa.

Five different players hit the board for MPU with Seth Tababa kicking off the team's offense in the sixth minute. Casey Chambers, Isaiah Hossain, Cody Shimizu, and Sean Park were the other scorers for MP United, while Jerome Mettao and Jack Lizama made the pair for Matansa.

TanHoldings 10, Shirley's 0

TanHoldings had a rousing debut after pounding Shirley's.

Mark Patubo, Sernante Jimenez, Koujiro Matsumoto, and Mark Costales delivered two goals apiece for TanHoldings, while Kohjiro Goto and Morico Claridades chipped in one each.

In other results in the division, Kanoa was handed an easy win over Paire (forfeit).

OCEANIA

From Page 24

a view to build a better world. The Pacific Games Council works collaboratively with ONOC as its membership composition is very similar.

Hosted by the Northern Marianas Sports Association in partnership with the NMPMG2022 Organizing Committee, the ONOC Secretaries-General and about 30 delegates from various member federations will be participating in the Pacific Mini Games activities. Activities will include a logistics presentation, touring the venues and facilities, and a Q&A session.

Delegates attending will include ONOC members from the Cook Islands, Fiji, the Federated States of Micronesia, Guam, Nauru, Palau, Papua New Guinea, members from the Guam National Olympic Committee, and members from the Oceania Regional Anti-Doping Organisation.

"The Northern Marianas is looking forward to host our guests from Oceania! We can't wait to show them the amazing Pacific Mini Games that we have in store!" the statement read. ***(PR)***

Booker returns, NBA-leading Suns rout Heat on back-to-back

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Swimmers can't get enough of mutual time trial

MARK RABAGO

Tsunami Saipan's Maria Batallones in action in the 50-yard breaststroke of last March 9's mutual time trial among swimmers of Tsunami Saipan and Saipan Swim Club at the lap pool of the Pacific Islands Club Saipan in San Antonio.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

A total of 67 swimmers from Tsunami Saipan and Saipan Swim Club took part in the mutual time trial held last March 7 and 9 at the lap pool of the Pacific Islands Club Saipan in San Antonio.

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSOCIATE EDITOR

The mutual time trial between Tsunami Saipan Swimming Center and Saipan Swim Club was like going back in time when the island still had the Kan Pacific Swimming Pool in Marpi.

The mutual time trial recorded times of the swimmers but in a non-competitive setting and was held last March 7 and 9 at the Pacific Islands Club Saipan lap pool in San Antonio. It saw 67 swimmers from both Tsunami Saipan and SSC participate.

Maria Batallones, who saw action in the 11-and-over division said the mutual time trial was very exciting, fun, and interesting.

"Having a pool time trial with SSC was a great feeling. It felt like a meet which I heavily miss. Putting our skills and speed to the test while we and the other teams watch and compare was really fun. We learned something new from each other. Encouraging others, cheering them on, and praising them was something I really enjoyed. It was nice watching others swim and congratulating them and have the same happen to me. I really liked the support we gave and the support of others to us. Overall, I would like to have more events like these in the future," she said.

Maria Guerrero, who was in the 10-and-under under category, said the mutual meet will work wonders in improving her times.

"I was excited for this time trail because I know it's for my future. When I checked the results, I was super happy when I knew I improved. But, I would like to work on my backstroke more."

Sisters Shoko and Asaka Litulumar said the mutual time trial was beneficial in making them better swimmers. Both swam in the 11-and-over

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Oceania National Olympic Committee visits Saipan

Secretaries-General of Oceania National Olympic Committee are set to visit the CNMI in honor of the first-ever Northern Marianas Pacific Mini Games 2022 tomorrow, March 12, 2022.

The ONOC, an International Olympic Committee member, leads the Olympic movement in the Oceanic region fostering the Olympism values of excellence, friendship, and respect while promoting sport, culture and education with

See OCEANIA on **Page 23**

MARK RABAGO

Northern Marianas Pacific Mini Games 2022 sign on the fence of the Oleai Sports Complex in Oleai.

MPU-2, Paire nip opponents

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

An MP United Football Club-2 player tries to control the ball in front of Shirley's Football Club defenders during their boys U13 division game in the 2022 NMIFA Youth Spring League last Saturday at the NMI Soccer Training Center in Koblerville.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

MP United Football Club-2 and Paire Football Club earned close wins in the boys U13 division opening games in the 2022 NMIFA Youth Spring League last Saturday at the NMI Soccer Training Center in Koblerville.

Quido Jambor lifted MP United-2 to a 2-1 triumph over Shirley's Football Club, while Jayteen Lee Villagomez delivered the go-ahead in Paire's 3-2 victory against Kanoa Football Club.

Jambor scored the pair of goals for MP United-2 with his first in the 23rd minute knotting the court at 1-all. Bennet Haro earlier in the seventh minute put Shirley's on the board, but the team eventually lost the lead and the game when Jambor took over for MP United-2 and hit his target anew in the 31st minute.

In the Paire-Kanoa tiff, the latter drew first blood, courtesy of Akoni Matsumoto's goal right in the first minute and even posted a 2-0 lead at halftime following D'Artagnan Moya Enerio's goal in the 17th minute. However, Paire fought back in the second half behind siblings Jazzroy and Jayten Villagomez. Jazzroy equalized in the 21st minute, just a minute after Paire got an own goal, while Jayten's conversion in the 36th put the team on the top and it hung on to the shaky lead for the season debut win.

Meanwhile, MP United-1 completed Week 1 winners in the division after downing TanHoldings Football Club, 7-3.

See MPU on **Page 23**